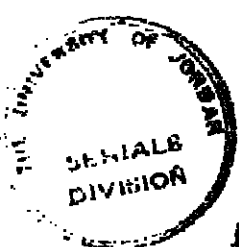


IST 26-27
UMN
n therapy
of it
3) — The
stranded
Andrew
y after
g. topless
S. business
wspapers
ago. The
television
erson With
was prom
d sought
to therapy
of that. I
sy to me.
therapy?
I do. I do
she said
led to be
Network
ess, the
separated
rince And
to the
Charles
ah, who is
are both
1986. She
ed just af
lished in
ss and em
John Bryan
pool near
ern France
oyed by cr
were with
id not have
going to ju
ppiness.
lly aware
ie on that
so said the
s from the
officer, m
riage. She
together 4
they were
despite all
loves the
ay a word
I love the
ity," she
kind to me
d very pe
protect that
ig sent
nt
(AFP) —
charged
and sent
me for al
has had
a law su
beating b
bo pulled
ing spar
On Satur
ested afte
shed his
al over the
old faces
for the l
s currently
900 arme
He has le
at least of
the remain
ject to an
ure.
iving
o (R) — U
ever has
ken driv
at the we
ski. res
i. Officers
ay morning
weaving
Aspen Pe
Murray sa
ct. — a
long-ter
volunt
outside
ar-old Do
filing rec
States. a
such as
ad Sunsh
e was an
ed a 0.11
level. off
nder. Col
en. dring
ends at
rday said
prior an
ed on ha
ian
fish
life
— British
mer says
solidific
the kis
in fresh
le could
his gill
rking. "I
told the
ignoring
ied moun
n. — I
month an
re him a
Ms. Jere
a reve
raun I
water
J an
is rain.



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political newspaper published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تيمز يومية سياسية مستقلة المنشورة من المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الرأى.

Israeli soldier kills Palestinian

GAZA CITY, occupied Gaza Strip (AFP) — An Israeli soldier shot and killed a Palestinian at point blank range in the Nuseirat refugee camp Friday, Palestinian sources said. The soldier was trying to force Nahed Aich Rajab, 19, to climb into a jeep after hitting him, witnesses said. He shot the Palestinian in the stomach at point blank range, the sources said. Rajab was taken to hospital in Tel Aviv, where he died, according to the Palestinian sources. If confirmed, he would be the 1,112th Palestinian killed by Israeli security forces or settlers since the start of the uprising in December 1987. In another incident, another resident of Nuseirat, Walid Tabaza, 26, was beaten to death by members of a Palestinian vigilante group who accused him of "indecent" sexual behaviour, according to Palestinian sources. The attack was claimed by the armed wing of the Popular Front for Liberation of Palestine.

Chinese, Saudis try to fix ship's search

DAMMAM, Saudi Arabia (R) — Chinese and Saudi Arabian officials tried to agree Friday when and how to inspect a Chinese ship accused by the United States of carrying banned chemicals weapons materials for Iran. The Yinhe, shadowed by U.S. warships since it entered the region on Aug. 3, docked at Dammam Thursday for inspection by Saudi and Chinese officials. Chinese diplomats said a Foreign Ministry delegation that arrived in Dammam on Thursday was still discussing with Saudi authorities a possible date for the inspection. "There is still no decision on when the inspection will be. It is a complicated inspection," one diplomat said. He said American experts might join the inspection as technical advisers. Beijing had previously objected to any U.S. role. The U.S. Navy in the Gulf refused on Thursday to comment on regional press reports that a U.S. technical team would act as advisers to Saudi authorities inspecting the freighter. The Chinese delegation on Friday left their Dammam hotel to visit the vessel. "Our visit is to help raise the morale of the crew members. They are very tired."

Volume 17 Number 5394 AMMAN SATURDAY, AUGUST 28, 1993, RABIE' AL AWAL 10, 1414

Arafat struggles with crises, dissent in top PLO meeting

Combined agency dispatches

TUNIS — Yasser Arafat, head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) for more than 20 turbulent years, tried Friday to beat back a challenge to his leadership and convince the movement that a peace pact with Israel is now within sight.

The turmoil within the PLO comes only days before the resumption of the Middle East peace talks in Washington and is linked to Mr. Arafat's support for a plan that would introduce Palestinian self-rule.

Mr. Arafat — and Israeli leaders — appear to favour a proposal to grant Palestinians autonomy in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho as a first step towards an overall Middle East peace settlement (see separate stories).

But PLO dissidents feel the group is making too many concessions to Israel, and they are also upset with Mr. Arafat's autocratic style and the deepening financial troubles within the movement.

Mr. Arafat, 64, and his circle are facing unprecedented criticism and there have been calls for Mr. Arafat to resign.

PLO officials said Mr. Arafat argued with his critics during a lengthy session of the PLO's ruling Executive Committee Thursday night, but failed to steer the body completely behind him.

PLO information chief Yasser Abed Rabbo said Friday's meeting was to discuss the recent resignations of two leading members of the decision-making body, which are symptoms of the deep financial and political crisis gripping the organisation.

And he welcomed a declaration by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres that his country was willing to allow Palestinian self-government in the Gaza Strip as a "step forward."

He said the first session of the emergency meeting, which took place Thursday night, discussed



Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee members (left to right) Mahmoud Abbas, Mahmood Darwish and Yasser Abed Rabbo pose for the press Friday ahead of a second day of a top-level meeting in Tunis (AFP photo)

negotiating policy with Israel and the PLO's financial crisis, but did not touch on the resignations.

A Palestinian source who declined to be identified told AFP that Thursday's debate was "very frank."

Mr. Abed Rabbo, the PLO's information chief, told AFP that "if Mr. Peres is in agreement, we are in agreement," with the proposed Israeli pullout, adding that "we can only welcome this step forward."

The outcome of the Tunis meeting will be a critical factor on whether a breakthrough can be achieved when the 21-month-old Arab-Israeli peace negotiations resume Tuesday in the U.S. capital. If Mr. Arafat can maintain control, there would be substantial progress.

Prominent poet Mahmoud Darwish, who brought the crisis to the fore by his resignation last week, attended the meeting.

The PLO's representative in Lebanon, Shafiq Al Hout, who

announced his withdrawal from the committee on Sunday, was in Beirut attending a summit of Arab participants in the U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace talks with Israel.

Tayseer Khaled, a representative of the Damascus-based Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) on the committee, called for the resignation of committee members who had been conducting negotiations with Israel.

He accused the negotiating team composed of officials close to Mr. Arafat, and led by committee member Mahmoud Abbas, of "abuse of power" and "incompetence," blaming them for "all the concessions made" to Israel.

"I will call for the team which directs the negotiations to resign," he told Reuters, adding that he also wanted the talks with Israel to be suspended.

Asked whether the resignation call included Mr. Arafat, Mr.

Suharto welcomes King's visit

JAKARTA (Petra) — President Suharto of Indonesia has welcomed a visit by His Majesty King Hussein to Indonesia, Labour Minister Khaled Al Ghazawi said Friday.

Mr. Ghazawi, who is now on an official visit to Indonesia heading a delegation, delivered a message from the King to President Suharto at the presidential palace.

He said he also conveyed to President Suharto greetings from King Hussein and the Jordanian government and people and was asked to convey greetings to King Hussein.

Discussion with the president covered cooperation in labour-related affairs, said the minister.

Mr. Ghazawi said he outlined Jordan's policies in controlling the labour market, vocational training programmes and other matters related to trade exchanges and joint ventures involving Indonesian and Jordanian firms.

King Hussein returned home Thursday from Oman after a three-day visit. He held talks with Sultan Qaboos Ben Sa'id on Inter-Arab relations and means to achieve Arab solidarity.

King Hussein and Sultan Qaboos also discussed bilateral relations and regional and international issues.

King Hussein and Sultan Qaboos Thursday held a meeting attended by members of the Jordanian and Omani delegations.

Talks on the latest developments at the Arab and international forums, means of restoring Arab solidarity and crystallising a unified Arab stand towards all decisive common Arab issues.

The two sides also touched upon the latest developments in the Arab-Israeli peace talks and stressed the need for achieving a just, comprehensive and durable peace.

Upon departure from Oman, the King was seen off by Sultan Qaboos and senior Omani officials, in addition to the Jordanian ambassador to Oman.

Arabs begin coordination talks

Combined agency dispatches

BEIRUT (AP) — Arab states and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) opened a two-day conference Friday to chart a united strategy when they face off with Israeli negotiators next week in a new round of Middle East peace talks.

The 11th round of the U.S.-sponsored talks, set for Tuesday in Washington, comes amid signals that the Israelis and the Palestinians are moving toward an agreement for Palestinian self-rule (see separate story).

U.S. State Department Spokesman Michael McCurry said that preparations continue "vigorously" for the Aug. 31 peace talks.

"Our goal for this next session" would be to see the parties "fully engaged on some of the tough issues" and working toward some form of declaration, he said, adding that things are now set for "some significant progress," he said.

"We haven't received formal confirmation from all the delegations, but we do expect all the parties to participate," the spokesman said.

"While we think the coming session is likely to be a short session and we don't expect major breakthroughs, we do think that there is an opportunity now for some constructive discussion focusing on the key issues," Mr. McCurry emphasised.

He said the parties are now beginning to formulate positions on the "real tough issues" — something that must be done "if the process is going to go forward."

Prior to Secretary of State Warren Christopher's trip to the Middle East in early August, Mr. McCurry noted, the talks were in jeopardy. "I think we are now confident that the (peace) process is back on track as a result of the secretary's trip," he said.

The foreign ministers of Syria, Jordan and Lebanon and the Foreign Affairs chief of the PLO met Friday afternoon at Beirut's Bristol hotel amid tight security.

Troops toting assault rifles and armor-piercing rockets blocked traffic in a 1.5-kilometre radius around the Bristol and sharpshooters were stationed on rooftops overlooking the site.

About 150 placard-waving Palestinians, mostly women, were allowed to demonstrate at the hotel's entrance. They demanded a resumption of PLO financial assistance to help the nearly 400,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

The protest ended when a policeman fired two shots in the air. Police pushed the women away from the hotel and blocked their path to the entrance with a line of vehicles.

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat agreed to meet two representatives of the protesters and missed the start of his meeting as a result of their discussions.

The participants at the conference said they would seek to resolve any inter-Arab differences before going to Washington.

(Continued on page 10)

IAF decision to take part in polls is pragmatic and realistic

By Nermeen Murad Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Thursday's overwhelming vote by the Islamic Action Front (IAF) to take part in the next parliamentary elections highlights the pragmatic approach that the Islamists adopt in the Jordanian political arena, but, above all, it shows their skill in handling the game of political survival and pursuing the goal of Islamic society peacefully and gradually.

Following the meeting of the front's 120-member Shura (consultative) council, in which 85 per cent of those who attended (101) decided not to boycott the Nov. 8 elections, the IAF issued a statement saying incentives "for participation outweigh (considerations for boycott) in view of the sensitive stage which the nation is passing through."

"...The front has a responsibility in consolidating the march of shura and democracy as well as in preserving national security and unity," the statement said.

"The Islamic Action Front, despite its opposition to the temporary election law, has no choice but to take part in the elections with the aim being more shura, freedom and democracy."

An analyst, who applauded the IAF decision as a sign of "political maturity," said the front's statement failed to

mention that the group also stands to benefit from Thursday's move in a number of ways.

"Their statement was accurate in that they have heeded the King's appeal to them to maintain stability in the country by participating in the elections, but they certainly underplayed the benefits the front will reap from that decision," a former cabinet minister who has close ties to Islamists told the Jordan Times.

front's members fear that a decision to boycott the elections and remain absent from the 12th Parliament could be interpreted as clearing the way for Jordan to reach agreement with Israel without facing stiff opposition in the House.

But their reduced number in the new House — if predictions that they will only gain 15 to 17 seats materialise — will also save them from harsh criticism by their supporters if they fail to achieve their declared social or political programme within the next four years.

Most of the analysts interviewed agreed that, put together, these factors certainly will "outweigh" considerations for boycott of the elections especially in view of the Islamists' declared programme to Islamise society without repeating the experiences of Egypt and Algeria.

"If the Islamists now put off their social agenda and continue to operate as a political opposition within the next four years, they will certainly gain a lot of ground with the people," said the former minister who knows their thinking.

"When they first participated in the government (with Mudar Badran in 1990) they pushed their social agenda quickly, something which was resisted by some equally

(Continued on page 10)

Tunis talks unlikely to resolve long-running conflicts in PLO

By Mariam M. Shahin Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The ongoing meeting of senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials in Tunis is expected to resolve temporarily a widening rift between PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's kitchen cabinet and other senior Palestinian officials over the peace process and the PLO's financial crisis, Palestinian officials in Amman and Tunis said Friday.

At least 10 of 18 members of the PLO Executive Committee as well as Palestinian political party leaders and peace negotiators remain essentially in the dark about details of a PLO-Israeli dialogue at "senior levels," a provisional accord on a preliminary Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho and the PLO's financial crisis, the officials said.

Dozens of questions remain unanswered even as that meeting takes place between PLO Executive Committee members and Chairman Arafat and his kitchen cabinet, the officials said.

"There are three issues at hand in Tunis at this moment," said Ahmad Al Jamal, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) spokesman in Amman. "The accord, what the accord entails, who arranged it and what guarantees the Israelis have for us on this, besides the questions that surround our financial crisis."

The majority of the PLO Executive Committee, the highest decision-making body in the PLO, were neither consulted nor informed about what appears to be a back-door PLO-Israeli dialogue. Nor where they put in the picture of an Arafat-backed proposal of "Gaza-Jericho first" plan,

Palestinian officials in Tunis say. To add to the confusion generated by this weekend's leakage of a PLO-Israeli finalisation of a provisional accord, two different versions of the Gaza-Jericho plan, one Palestinian and one Israeli, were announced or referred to in Amman and Tel Aviv (see related story).

After an eight-hour meeting on Thursday and Friday, no member of the PLO kitchen cabinet nor Mr. Arafat had answered any of the questions posed by the rest of the Palestinian leadership about the essence and details of the accord and its implementation.

"No one answered a single question about the reported Palestinian-Israeli accord, what it was about exactly, how it will be implemented or who met with whom," a member of the Executive Committee told the Jordanian Press (Continued on page 10)

Agreement reported on 'general lines' of Gaza-Jericho option

Combined agency dispatches

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Israeli and Palestinian officials said Friday they were near agreement on a plan for limited self-rule for Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

One report said an agreement along "general lines" has already been signed, which would be an historic first in Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking.

Israeli newspapers reported Friday that Foreign Minister Shimon Peres secretly met a top Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) official to forge the Palestinian self-rule deal.

Former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of the rightist Likud Party said Mr. Rabin was rushing to give away land and demanded elections be called.

Senior Israeli officials sidestepped questions about the reports, appearing in four of the seven main dailies, that Mr. Peres met a senior PLO figure in Scandinavian last week.

Peres and high-ranking PLO officials said this week the two sides agreed on the Gaza-Jericho plan that would be presented at the 11th round of Middle East peace talks in Washington starting on Tuesday.

Other officials warned against expecting a breakthrough. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat supports the plan to grant Palestinians autonomy in Gaza and Jericho as a first step toward an overall peace settlement. Other Palestinian leaders maintain he is being too flexible toward Israel, and that the plan could postpone indefinitely their goal of achieving independent Palestinian statehood.

Israeli leaders support the plan. Some right-wingers object to any quick troop withdrawals from these areas.

"Today there is more agreement between us and the Palestinians as ever before," Mr. Peres

85% of Islamist front council vote in favour of participating in elections

AMMAN (J.T.) — In an emergency meeting Thursday night, the Islamic Action Front's (IAF) 120-member consultative council (Shura) voted in favour of participation in the Nov. 8 elections with 85 per cent support of the council.

The front, which led a campaign against the introduction of a one-person, one-vote election law without ratification from the Lower House of Parliament, said its decision was taken after extensive consultations with its popular base in all the Kingdom's areas.

In a statement to the press at the end of the meeting, the head of the council, Abdul Majid Thneibat, said that incentives "for participation outweigh (considerations for boycott) in view of the sensitive stage which the nation is passing through."

"...The front has a responsibility in consolidating shura and the democratic march and preserving national security and unity and to ensure that boycott would not be utilised by those who want to undermine the political achievements of the Islamic Action Front or by those who are against democracy and are betting on its failure."

"The Islamic Action Front, despite its opposition to the temporary election law, can only participate in the elections and work towards more shura, democracy and freedom. The party will continue to favour public interest

over its own individual interest." In a separate statement, the Muslim Brotherhood movement also announced that they will participate in the Nov. 8 elections under the banner of the IAF.

The movement said: "The Muslim brothers view parliamentary work and participation in national elections as a method that would serve their call and ensure their continued contact with their supporters with the aim of adopting their grievances and defending their rights."

"... (It is also a way to) clarify truths, introduce programmes and projects which would ensure the development of the country and its progress."

"Therefore and despite our great reservations towards the current elections law and the way it was introduced (and the fact that) it aims to limit the presence of the Islamic movement and its representation in the next parliament."

"... (The Brothers) out of their feeling of responsibility to their calling, their homeland, and their citizens, and out of their concern for the sensitive developments in our nation at this time, have decided to participate in the upcoming parliamentary elections with its members who are also affiliated to the Islamic Action Front."

Both statements appeared to have tried to balance the opposing views among the Islamists

vis-a-vis participation in the elections. The Islamists appeared to be heading towards a confrontation with the government of Abdul Salam Majali over the unilateral introduction of a one-person, one-vote formula until a speech by His Majesty King Hussein on Aug. 17 threw them off track threatening to create divisions within their rank.

In an address to the nation announcing the introduction of the amendment to the law, the King appealed to the front to assume its historical responsibility and participate in the elections to ensure continued political stability.

The "moderates" who are usually careful to keep their historically good ties with the Jordanian regime, felt that the King's speech credited their political weight in the country and that a confrontation should be avoided over the law.

"The hawks," however, adopted a different interpretation of the King's message and insisted on boycotting the polls. Between this camp and that, a third opinion appeared which called for participating in the elections but with independent candidates rather than a cross-country ballot.

The three opinions were presented at Thursday's meeting, according to reports, but details were not immediately available.

PLO and Israel see accord on Gaza-Jericho, but differ on final goals

By Mariam M. Shahin Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Senior members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and a high-ranking Israeli government official have reached a provisional agreement which entails Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho as an initial step towards total Israeli withdrawal from all Palestinian lands occupied in the 1967 war, a PLO official said Friday.

"This will be the first step towards independence if it is realised," said Saleh Raafat, a long-time Palestinian Central Council (PCC) member and Palestinian Democratic Federation Party (PDFP) representative in Jordan.

"Direct contacts between senior PLO and Israeli officials" had resulted in the following terms of agreement, according to Mr. Raafat:

— A total Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho;

— An empowerment for the PLO to rule the two Israeli evacuated areas of the occupied territories;

— Recognition of the territorial unity of the two areas;

— A joint declaration of principles that would clarify the definition and objectives of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338;

— A declaration that the "Gaza-Jericho first" withdrawal is the first in a series of phases that would eventually lead to full Israeli withdrawal from the Palestinian lands the Jewish state occupied during the 1967 war;

— An Israeli agreement to the participation, both as voters and candidates, of East Jerusalem Palestinians in legislative elections to be held in the interim stage between full Israeli withdrawal and the Palestinian takeover in the occupied territories.

But comments of Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, the Israeli official deemed most likely

to have been the Israeli party to have participated in the accord, made it clear that the Israeli version of the accord differed from the Palestinian one.

"For the first time I can see a plan, which in principle, is acceptable to the next round of talks between Palestinians and Israelis in Washington due to begin next Tuesday."

Asked if military withdrawal would be involved he said, "Yes, ... it will be more than a pilot plan, so to speak, about autonomy and the great advantage is that it could be done rather early."

The Israeli foreign minister

(Continued on page 10)

Hizbollah leader vows 'new rules' in S. Lebanon

BEIRUT (AP) — The leader of Iranian-backed Shiite Muslim guerrillas was quoted Friday as saying his fighters will not fire rockets into northern Israel if the Israelis do not bombard Muslim villages in South Lebanon.

"We're adhering to the new rules of the game ... that we ourselves have established," Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah said in an interview published by the leftist Al Safir daily four days before Arab-Israeli peace talks resume in Washington.

"We stopped firing Katyusha rockets into northern Israel when Israel stopped shelling population centres," he said.

He called this a "balance of terror" based on a mutual cessation of targeting civilian areas on both sides of the flashpoint border, the only active Arab-Israeli warfront.

"Our goal is not to blast civilian targets with Katyushas. But if our civilian population centres are shelled, then Israel's settlements in northern Palestine are not going to be exempt from retaliation," he warned.

Sheikh Nasrallah, who recently returned from talks with Iranian leaders in Tehran, appeared to be taking an unexpectedly milder line than usual on the confrontation with Israel in S. Lebanon.

He did not elaborate. But he said resistance operations against the Israeli-occupied zone were not linked to the 21-month-old, U.S.-sponsored peace process in which the Palestinians reportedly

are near reaching an interim agreement with the Jewish state.

Earlier rounds of talks in Washington have been marked by sharp escalations of violence in South Lebanon and in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Although Sheikh Nasrallah spoke of "new rules" in the confrontation with Israel, they appeared similar to a tacit understanding between Hizbollah and the Jewish state that has been observed for some time.

Under that understanding, the Israelis would limit retaliation to major attacks on the "security zone," but would unleash severe reprisals, including attacks on towns and villages in South Lebanon, if settlements in northern galilee were rocketed.

Israeli warplanes Thursday raided Hizbollah targets after guerrillas attacked positions inside the "security zone" manned by the South Lebanon Army (SLA) a Lebanese militia armed and funded by Israel.

That kept tension high in the turbulent region in advance of the 11th round of peace talks scheduled to begin next Tuesday in Washington.

The foreign ministers of Syria, Jordan and Lebanon and the Palestine Liberation Organisation political department chief gathered in Beirut Friday to map out their strategy for the 11th round of peace negotiations.

Iran, and Arab groups like Hizbollah, oppose the peace talks.

Sheikh Nasrallah insisted that Hizbollah's operations "are not seasonal or political. It's a daily action that our brothers have been waging since 1985."

That was when Israel withdrew the bulk of its army which invaded Lebanon in June 1982 to crush Palestinian guerrillas.

The Israelis continue to occupy the 1,100-square-kilometre "security zone."

Sheikh Nasrallah said that "new rules" seem to have held over the last three weeks of hostilities following a one-week Israel air, sea and artillery offensive against Hizbollah July 25-31 after seven soldiers were slain in guerrilla attacks.

"This has been demonstrated in the way the Israelis reacted to the Shiheen operation," Sheikh Nasrallah said.

Nine Israeli soldiers were killed in a Hizbollah attack near the village of Shiheen inside the Israeli-occupied zone Aug. 19. It was the highest single-day death toll the Israelis have suffered in South Lebanon since 1985.

Israeli fighter-bombers blasted Hizbollah training and supply bases in east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, killing two guerrillas. But civilian targets were not hit.

Those air strikes were the first since a U.S.-brokered ceasefire halted the Israeli blitz in July in which nearly 150 people, mostly Lebanese civilians, were killed, nearly 500 wounded and a half-million people driven from their homes.



JERICHO: A scene from the market of Jericho in the occupied West Bank. The town is said to be the oldest in the world and is the focus of a plan involving Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho as the first step in an interim Palestinian self-rule period in the occupied territories (AFP photo)

Clinton hails Saudi consultative council

DUBAI (Agencies) — U.S. President Bill Clinton welcomed the formation of Saudi Arabia's consultative council designed to give citizens a say in the oil-rich kingdom's affairs, the Saudi Press Agency reported Thursday night.

"We have welcomed the Shura council as an important step to widen popular participation in the government, which conforms with our history and traditions," the agency quoted Mr. Clinton as saying in a message to King Fahd.

The Saudi monarch last week appointed members of the 60-man Shura council, the first ever in the kingdom's 61-year history, as part of political reforms promised after the 1991 Gulf war.

Diplomats said on Wednesday they expected that King Fahd would move quickly to implement further reforms including the appointment of provincial consultative councils to work alongside the national Shura council.

King Fahd sent a message to Mr. Clinton thanking him for welcoming the Shura council, "which was formed in accordance with our Islamic religion and our ancient traditions and values," the agency said.

It also quoted the Saudi newspaper Okaz on Friday as calling on Saudi Arabia's citizens to actively correspond with the new council's members and "not to sit idly by in an indifference that does not live up to the standard of this historic achievement."

The Washington Times reports: The International Committee for Human Rights in the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula has welcomed the consultative assembly and expressed hope that "further positive measures ... would enable Saudi Arabia to keep pace with the democratic changes that have swept various parts of the world in the aftermath of the cold war."

All experts point to the crucial importance of Saudi Arabia to the West, with its oil wealth estimated at 257 billion barrels, or one-fourth of the world's known petroleum reserves. Saudi Arabia is also a huge market for Western goods, high technology and expertise.

The kingdom has jealously guarded its political and economic prerogatives, often baffling experts and intelligence specialists who seem to be unable to forecast the scenario for succession to the Saudi throne.

News from Saudi Arabia is generally sketchy, largely due to an effective ban on foreign journalists ordered by King Fahd.

Mortar attack in Mogadishu after elite forces arrive

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Somali gunmen fired mortar shells or rocket propelled grenades at a U.S. military base here overnight, but there were no casualties or damage, a U.N. spokesman said Friday.

The attack follows the arrival Thursday of U.S. crack troops amid reports that among their missions was the capture of fugitive southern Mogadishu Mohammed Farah Aidede, wanted by the United Nations.

The shells were fired at sword base in southern Mogadishu, Captain Tim McDavitt, a spokesman for the U.N. peacekeeping force in Somalia, UNOSOM II, said. The base is occupied by some 500 soldiers from the 68th Combat Support Battalion.

A mortar shell also landed about 300 metres from the gate to the former U.S. embassy, now used as UNOSOM headquarters, but there were no injuries or damage.

Other attackers shot at Turkish troops guarding the gate. The gunmen fled when the soldiers returned fire.

The first group of 65 soldiers of an additional 400 U.S. troops from the elite 3rd Battalion, 75th Rangers, based in Fort Benning, Georgia, arrived here on Thursday.

Battalion commander Lieutenant Colonel Danny McKnight said he did not know what role his soldiers, trained in unconventional warfare, would play in Somalia or how long they would stay.

The men were ready to carry out any mission assigned to them, he added. The remaining soldiers are expected to arrive here by the weekend.

But ABC News in the United States reported that commandos charged with capturing General Aidede were among the U.S. reinforcements which arrived in Somalia on Thursday.

ABC News quoted U.S. officials saying members of the elite Delta Force had arrived, which ABC said demonstrated "the importance and urgency that the U.S. places on capturing Aidede."

The Delta Force began its operation immediately after arriving in Somalia, according to ABC's sources, who did not say how many commandos were deployed.

CBS also reported that the U.S. troops sent to join the peacekeepers in Somalia included a "Delta counter-terrorist team."

The United Nations has offered a \$25,000 reward for anyone assisting in the capture of Gen. Aidede whom it has blamed for the attack which left 24 Pakistani peacekeepers dead in June.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Khamenei rules out restoring ties with U.S.

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian spiritual guide Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has ruled out talks with the U.S. to restore ties, broken after the Islamic revolution of 1979, the official IRNA news agency said Friday. "Countries of the world should realize that they can live without America and enjoy peace and prosperity," it quoted Ayatollah Khamenei as saying. "We have experienced this reality during the past 15 years." Ayatollah Khamenei, in a meeting Thursday with Iran's foreign-based diplomats, said the United States was the most "hated country in the eyes of the Iranian nation" and of enlightened people worldwide, IRNA said. It was the first time Ayatollah Khamenei explicitly ruled out negotiations in a bid to reestablish ties with Washington and was expected to dampen speculation that Iran could seek to settle its differences with the U.S. He said defending the rights of the world's Muslims, notably those of the Palestinians, was a major aim of the Islamic republic and that Iran would never compromise over their interests. Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati have repeatedly suggested that Iranian-U.S. relations could improve if Washington acted to release billions of dollars in frozen Iranian assets in the United States after the revolution that toppled the Shah. Last month, newspapers here reported that secret efforts were underway in parliamentary circles to urge the government to seek better relations with Washington.

Two Iranian guards arrested in Iraqi Kurdistan

IRBIL (AFP) — Two Iranian Revolutionary Guards were arrested last weekend after infiltrating Iraqi Kurdistan to reconnoitre the region for future Iranian artillery attacks, Kurdish authorities said Friday. The chief of Kurdish "police" in Dabandikhan, in the Kurds' self-declared autonomous area of northern Iraq, said the two men were captured after a fierce Iranian bombardment of the region. The two Iranians, members of the elite guard corps which operates both inside Iran and externally, admitted that they were on an intelligence mission and had to gather information for more bombardment of the region. Four Iranian soldiers on a cross-border raid were captured by Iraqi Kurdish forces in July, and were released in mid-August following Iranian threats to bombard Sulaymaniyah, one of Iraqi Kurdistan's major towns. Iran has been pounding artillery shells and conducting raids into Iraqi Kurdistan in pursuit of conducting attacks on Iran. The "governor" of Dabandikhan, Mustapha Cawresh, told AFP that villages 30 kilometres from the Iranian border had been bombed last Sunday. One of the villages, Nautaq, is a base for an armed Iranian Kurdish separatist movement, the Democratic Kurdish Party of Iran (DKPI).

Turkish prime minister to visit Russia

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller will visit Russia next month for talks with President Boris Yeltsin on the Azeri-Armenian conflict and other issues. Government spokesman Yildirim Aktuna said Ms. Ciller would go to Moscow some time between Sept. 5 and 10. He said she would discuss recent Armenian advances into Azeri territory which have alarmed Turkey. "We are for the preservation of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity," he said, adding that Turkey would work within the international community to try to halt the conflict. Ms. Ciller was also expected to discuss economic cooperation with Russia, Turkey's biggest trading partner in the former Soviet Union, and the route of a proposed pipeline to carry Azeri and Kazakh oil across Turkish territory. It will be Ms. Ciller's first trip abroad since she became prime minister in June. She is scheduled to visit Germany, which she had previously planned to make her first foreign destination, on September 20, and 21 for talks with Chancellor Helmut Kohl. Ms. Ciller is also making plans to visit the United States, but no dates have been set. A Turkish opposition leader, former Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit, urged Ankara in remarks carried by Anatolian news agency on Friday to launch air strikes against Armenia to deter it from attacking Azerbaijan and giving sanctuary to Kurdish guerrillas on Turkey's eastern border. In recent months separatist Kurdish rebels have become more active in eastern Turkey near the borders with Iran and Armenia.

British hiker fights off rape attempt

RABAT (R) — British hiker Fyona Campbell, bidding to become the first woman to walk across Africa, fought off a would-be rapist in Morocco after she set off on the final leg of her odyssey. The Moroccan authorities responded by deciding to give Ms. Campbell, who is part way through an attempt to walk round the world, a police escort for the final 281 kilometres from Rabat to the northern city of Tangier. "It was a difficult struggle with a young beach bum who tried to rape me," Ms. Campbell, 26, told Reuters Friday. "I'm fine but I don't look very pretty. My left eye is badly swollen and cut, and I won't be able to judge distances very well. It will probably slow me down," she added. The man attacked her on the busy three-lane highway 35 kilometres north of Rabat on Thursday. He was arrested by paramilitary police a few hours later. After recuperating at the residence of the British ambassador in Rabat, Sir Allan Ramsay, Ms. Campbell plans to continue her walk on Saturday. She hopes to reach Tangier by Sept. 1. Ms. Campbell left Cape Town in April 1991 and has hiked through 13 African countries as part of her ambition to walk around the world. She has covered 28,000 kilometres in the United States, Europe and Australia. She still has to walk through Asia.

Algerian prosecutor seeks 15 death sentences

ALGIERS (R) — An Algerian prosecutor has asked a court to condemn 15 Muslim fundamentalists to death and jail 22 for life at APS said Friday. The men are among 78 known as the "Taref Group" being tried on charges including killings and attempted killing, undermining state security, setting up an armed group and facing the death sentence are in court, with one being tried in his absence. The prosecutor, who like the judges cannot be named, asked for the remaining 41 accused to be jailed for between five and 10 years. The court is one of three set up under an anti-terrorist decree passed last year with tough powers to combat violence.

Iraq gives ultimatum to shipowners

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq has given the owners of 54 rusting vessels two months to tow them out of the Shatt Al Arab waterway, where they have been stranded since the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq war in 1980.

It was yet another indication that Iraq is preparing for a possible lifting of U.N. trade sanctions by clearing the estuary, its only outlet to the Gulf — even though there is no indication the sanctions are about to be lifted.

Over the past few weeks, U.S. Navy officials and other observers have noted that the Iraqis allowed a few such ships to be towed out of the waterway.

The state-run Iraqi News Agency, monitored in Cyprus, said eight ships have been towed

into the Gulf since July 5, a figure roughly equivalent to that provided by other observers.

The agency disclosed that this followed a request to the owners from Iraqi authorities, keen to unblock the key waterway.

It said the owners would now be given another two months to remove the remaining vessels. It did not give a precise date or say what would happen if the request were not heeded. The agency said the number of remaining vessels was 54.

Many of the vessels are in very bad condition and are usable only as scrap metal.

The Shatt Al Arab, which forms part of the Iran-Iraq border, is littered with the hulks of dozens of rusting ships that were caught in its waters at the out-

break of the war in 1980.

Without announcing it officially, Iraq recently started allowing the owners of those vessels to tow them out of the estuary and down the Gulf to Dubai for scrapping — or, in some cases, repair.

The news of the Iraqi move first came to light last month only because U.S.-led allied warships are monitoring shipping to and from Iraq to ensure that Iraq does not try to export or import anything in contravention of the Security Council resolutions.

The Shatt Al Arab, which Iran calls the Arvand Rud, was bitterly fought over as Iraq tried to keep open its oil exports, and Iran tried to cut that economic lifeline.

The waterway was littered with mines and wrecked ships.

Algeria's bloodshed turning homes into horror

By John Baggaley
Reuters

ALGIERS — On a street of elegant old French buildings that form the heart of the Algerian capital, an ambulance nosed into battling traffic to take a mutilated body on its last journey.

The killing of Mahfoud Boucebsi, a doctor known as a friend of the poor, confirmed fears that suspected Muslim fundamentalists were seeking out "soft targets" in an increasingly bloody fratricidal struggle.

Dr. Boucebsi was knifed repeatedly as he arrived at hospital for work. A group of Algerians turned out to mourn him, shouting "Algeria, democracy." But the heavy summer air in tree-lined Rue Didouche Mourad muffled the words which lacked force and conviction.

Street riots that rocked cities and towns have ended, road blocks become fewer. The authorities say the security situation is being mastered and a feared civil war avoided.

But the spaces for safety are shrinking as the battle for Algeria's future becomes more caustic by the day.

More than 1,000 people have been killed in 18 months of conflict generally blamed on Islamic militants since a general election they were poised to win was cancelled.

Their vision of an Algeria in the "purity" of an Islamic state is seen by those espousing democracy as "return to the dark ages."

"They've sentenced hundreds to death, arrested thousands, but the fundamentalists seem to have no problem getting new recruits," commented one European diplomat. "And the killers are getting more and more indifferent to their victims."

Anger and fear spurred by the barbarity of recent killings is reflected in questions why some of over 200 condemned men — except for six executed early this year — have not been put before a firing squad.

"They should execute some of them to show they really mean it," a taxi driver commented after an August week in which 30 people, including many militants, died in continuing violence.

The government newspaper Al Moudjahid unusually reflected this anger. In an inter-

view with Justice Minister Mohammed Tegui said the public was asking questions about the sentences.

Mr. Tegui said some were passed in absentia. "The other death penalties ... become applicable after the supreme court has ruled on appeals and recourse for mercy (by appeal to the head of state) has been rejected."

Thirst for some accountability matches a widening feeling of vulnerability.

A few months ago most of the deaths involved members of the security forces, killed battling Islamic militants or ambushed by gunmen — their deaths seen by some as part of the risk of their work.

That has changed. Farmers, traders, officials, journalists, taxi drivers, intellectuals have been killed, some like the Mayor of Al Affroun, 55 kilometres southwest of Algiers, in front of a wife and children.

The killers maintain their strategy of surprise. Last weekend former Prime Minister Kasdi Merbah was ambushed and shot dead along with his son and brother. He was hit by 30 bullets.

Mr. Merbah, ex-head of military security for 17 years, should have been the least easy target.

For others, daily life has become a nightmare like that of a journalist who said he spent his week's holiday sheltering in his home and refusing to go out.

"Some intellectuals have stuck verses from the Koran in their cars, hung beads from the inside mirror, to try to show Islamists they are good Muslims," an Algerian businessman said.

"These people are true Muslims. But they're opposed to the fundamentalists and now feel that by trying to save their lives they've betrayed themselves."

Algerians and foreigners, conscious they might be targets although no expatriates have been killed, now leave and return home cautiously. Too many people not noticing lurking men have been gunned down outside their homes.

Some, including foreigners responding to embassy officials' advice, vary the times they leave and return home, and change routes. Others check shop window reflections

to see if they are being followed.

But a bolted and barred front door is no longer a guarantee of safety.

Eight days after Mr. Boucebsi died, Mohammed Boukhobza, head of the Institute for Global and Strategic Studies, had his throat cut in front of his bound daughter in his own home.

According to Liberte newspaper, four armed men forced a neighbour to knock at his door. Mr. Boukhobza, appointed in succession to a man killed earlier this year, opened it.

A newspaper worker and two brothers were also killed in their own homes this month. So was a policeman, his mother and brother. Al Watan newspaper this week reported a series of rapes — rare in Algeria — all inside homes and attributed to extremists forced to live "underground."

Algerian commentators see the latest deaths as another step into the abyss. "A strategy which takes us towards the massacre of the Algerian people and institution of civil war in Algeria," said Al Watan's director Omar Belhouche.

JORDAN TELEVISION

7/3111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Les Aventures de l'Espace
18:30 Envoyé Spécial
19:00 News in French
19:15 Fauter Sur
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 It's A Wacky World
21:00 Perspectives
21:30 Variétés
22:00 News in English
22:20 Feature Film: "City Boy"

PRAYER TIMES

06:42 Fajr
06:03 (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:37 Dhuhr
16:14 Asr
19:11 Maghreb
20:32 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweilish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 627285
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrace Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625226
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823264, 654922
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
There will be a gradual rise in temperatures and it will be relatively hot. Winds will be light to moderate. In Agaba winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman Min./Max. temp. 22 / 33
Agaba 27 / 39
Deserts 20 / 37
Jordan Valley 25 / 38

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 33, Agaba 39, Humidity readings: Amman 39 per cent, Agaba 15 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Walid Al Masri 675485
Dr. Sa'ad Ali 782285
Dr. Riaz Abu Zeina 894295
Dr. Mohammad Shuqair 626693
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 670785
Nairoukh pharmacy 626272
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 847632
IRBID:
Dr. Ahmad Qasbi 272032
Al Quds Pharmacy (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Abdul Karim Khateebchek 983023
Khalifeh pharmacy 983417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 693590
Public Security Department 630321
Price Complaints 602800
Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 69151
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information 010230
(directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 693590
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 661101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 774111
Radio Jordan 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-33200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/322
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 642281/6
Akilieh Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malinas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsi 664171/4
Shamsi Hospital 69151
University Hospital 845845
Al-Mushar Hospital 667277/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666173/7
Al-Adli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Mutajreen 771013
Al-Basir, J. Admish 771112/6
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/30
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Gov. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hittam Modern Hospital (09)990990
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272775
Ibn Al-Nafies Hospital (02)247110
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:30 Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)
16:15 Dhahran (RJ)
16:30 Cairo, Agaba (RJ)
16:45 New Delhi (RJ)
16:55 Beirut (RJ)
17:00 Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)
17:05 Colombo (RJ)
17:10 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
17:15 Cairo (RJ)
17:20 London (RJ)
17:25 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
17:30 London, Berlin (RJ)
17:35 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:40 Madrid (RJ)
17:45 New York (RJ)
06:40 New York (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

5:45 Larnaca (CY)
11:30 Sanaa (Y)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:30 Frankfurt (RJ)
06:35 Beirut (RJ)
12:00 Madrid (RJ)
12:05 Istanbul (RJ)
12:10 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
12:15 Cairo (RJ)
12:20 London (RJ)
12:25 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:30 Paris, Brussels (RJ)
12:35 Jeddah (RJ)
12:40 Damascus (RJ)
12:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
12:50 Larnaca (RJ)
12:55 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
13:00 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
07:45 Larnaca (CY)
09:15 Beirut (RJ)
12:30 Sanaa (Y)
12:35 Sanaa (Y)
12:40 Rome (AZ)
12:45 Cairo (MS)
12:50 Dubai (EM)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in lbs per kg

Apples 700/500
Apricots 440/340
Bananas 680
Beans (Mukammal) 260/200
Beats 360/220
Cabbages 330/220
Carrots 270/100
Cauliflowers 330/220
Cucumbers (large) 180/100
Cucumbers (small) 360/220
Eggplants 160/120
Figs 280/120
Garlic 750/350
Grapes 550/220
Guava 300/400
Lemon 270/120
Marrow (large) 140/90
Marrow (small) 280/120
Mushrooms 100/50
Olives 650/400
Onion (dry) 220/120
Oranges 440/180
Peaches 280/120
Pears 300/60
Pepper (hot) 220/120
Pepper (sweet) 270/150
Potatoes 330/220
Tomatoes 140/70
Watermelon 240/180



SILVER ANNIVERSARY: Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarrah today (Saturday) celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary. While dedicating their lives to serving the Kingdom, they have also devoted much attention to humanitarian issues and development projects and to the bringing up of their four children. Their Royal Highnesses Prince Rashed and Princesses Rahmah, Sumayah and Badi'ah

Majali to meet with business community

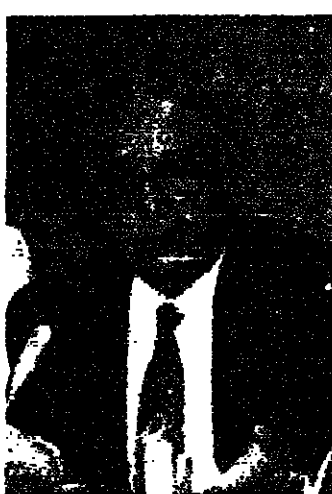
AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Tuesday will meet with the heads of chambers of commerce, leading businesspersons and representatives of the economic sector in Jordan.

Discussion will focus on economic and administrative issues, means of stimulating the private sector's businesses, the general economic developments in the Kingdom and the removal of barriers that continue to hinder progress.

The announcement, by the Federation of Chambers of Commerce, said that the meeting with the premier was part of ongoing contacts between the private sector and various government officials responsible for the national economy, to bolster bilateral cooperation in economic fields.

Meanwhile, Dr. Majali was quoted as saying that the government was considering raising the salaries of civil servants and offering incentives for creative employees.

The prime minister was speaking during a visit Thursday to the Amman Municipality where he met with Mayor Mamdouh Al Abbadi and senior officials to



Abdul Salam Al Majali discuss Municipal Council problems.

Dr. Majali said the government was planning to modernise Jordanian laws and regulations in official departments to ensure development and run parallel to the policy of decentralisation.

In pursuit of this policy, said the prime minister, each of the governorates in Jordan will have its own fiscal budget for 1994 and each governor will hold additional

authorities enabling him to deal directly with local matters without referring to the central government.

Among the new laws and regulations that are to accompany these reforms, Dr. Majali said, will be rules to provide incentives for creative employees and "make those who neglect their duty accountable."

Urging the municipality to cooperate closely with the government ministries, the prime minister said it should strive to expand the green areas within the Amman region and at the same time protect the agricultural lands.

He said that unused lands should be planted with forest trees to become natural breathing spaces for Amman's citizens and contribute towards safeguarding the environment.

In reviewing the municipality's activities, the mayor said, the municipal council was dealing with 20 different zones in the Amman region which is 520 kilometres in area.

Dr. Abbadi said the municipality's 7,430 workers were exerting their full efforts to provide municipal services in the Amman re-

gion. According to the mayor, the municipality needs JD58 million to meet its commitments, but it is receiving only a JD45 million budget annually.

He said the balance is covered from the savings of earlier years. The prime minister Thursday also visited the Ministry of Water and Irrigation where he was briefed on related projects by Minister Bassam Kakish.

Various difficulties facing the ministry and the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) in connection with water supplies were discussed.

Urging officials to act faithfully and exert efforts in providing public services, the prime minister said that one has to realise that selfishness can in no way solve problems.

Dr. Majali reaffirmed the need for decentralising government business, noting that such measures would save effort and time for citizens and government departments alike.

Noting that the government would not be lenient with those encroaching on state rights, water supplies, installations, and other facilities and services, the prime

minister said the water ministry should pinpoint faulty areas and any waste of funds and water resources before appropriate measures can be taken to deal with them.

The Premier also called on all ministries, government departments and public institutions to supply the Jordan Economic and Social Organisation for Retired Servicemen (JESORS) with detailed information about all public vehicles, and the costs involved in repairing them, as well as their maintenance records over the past three years.

In a communique issued to all government departments and public institutions, Dr. Majali urged cooperation with JESORS to enable the organisation to prepare studies for a project to repair all government-owned vehicles at maintenance workshops to be set up by JESORS.

The step is aimed at saving public funds by avoiding unnecessary expenses, recruiting a significant number of technicians at these workshops and training a large number of Jordanians as mechanics at a special maintenance institute to be set up for this purpose.

Political enlightenment drive targets women

By Jennifer Hamarneh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Although they admit that the one-person, one-vote system will significantly lessen the chances of a woman making it to Parliament this year, officials of the Business and Professional Women's Club (BPWC) in Amman are undeterred in their goal to continue a political enlightenment campaign targeted at Jordan's female electorate.

According to Selwa Nasser, director of BPWC's information center, the two-stage drive, which began in June, first aimed at getting women to register to vote.

Ms. Nasser explained to the Jordan Times that teams of five to six women and men held scheduled meetings and dialogues with women in urban and rural areas around the country.

The meetings, which were hosted at the Princess Basma Social Services centres, usually drew about 50 women, she said, and following each meeting, the BPWC learned that on average 40 to 50 per cent of the attendees had registered to vote.

Ms. Nasser added that the BPWC teams were delighted to learn that many of the women at these meetings recognised that not registering and not voting was negligent of their right and their civic duty.

With the passing of the registration deadline on Aug. 16, the BPWC is pooling its efforts for the second stage of their political enlightenment campaign, that is, an intensive drive to encourage women to run as candidates for the Lower House of Parliament.

Their strategy is to hold meetings again throughout the country, hoping to cover most of the area and distribute re-

levant literature.

They have published pamphlets and brochures that outline the advantages of having women representatives in the Lower House and in the political arena and points to be considered by women candidates in running a successful campaign.

Ms. Nasser explained that the meetings and the literature aim to enhance the role of women in politics.

"We strive to present the case of women and for women in the right light," she said, adding that at these meetings focus on raising the awareness of the advantages of women taking part in the law-making process.

The printed guidelines on successful electioneering focus mainly on how the candidate should cultivate her constituency.

Pointers include what to do at a political meeting.

For example, the brochure states that the candidate should be ahead of time, state her objectives and principles in 15 minutes then conduct a question and answer session in which she should strive to maintain a friendly, sincere debate.

The candidate is advised to listen as well as speak, and if she does not know the answer to a question, she should say so and later find the answer as soon as possible. She is counselled to close the session on friendly terms, even if there is disagreement.

Officials at the BPWC believe that even if women candidates are unsuccessful this year, the experience gained will benefit them in their next political efforts and the next elections.

"We are urging women to



Women from Madaba gather at the local Princess Basma Social Services Centre for a meeting and dialogue organised by the Business and Professional Women's Club on the importance of voting.

take part in the elections as voters and candidates because we believe that this experience will help enhance their role in political life and form the foundation for becoming political leaders in the future."

President of BPWC Hind Al Jaber told the Jordan Times.

The club, which was established in 1976 as a voluntary organisation, plans to air short public service announcements on television and radio to encourage women to vote.

In describing how these announcements will be designed, BPWC General Director Buhaina Jandaneh told the Jordan Times that at earlier meetings, many women indicated that their husbands or other male relatives would strongly influence, if not dic-

tate, their vote. For the illiterate woman, Mrs. Jandaneh said, her spouse or male relatives might write the name of the candidate on the woman's hand before she goes to the polls.

Mr. Jandaneh explained that rather than persuading them to ignore their husband's demand, they would suggest to these women that they try to encourage their spouses to attend campaign meetings and rallies in order to form an objective opinion of candidates.

"Our goal is not to create family conflicts, but to encourage quiet dialogue within the context of the culture to arrive at a more progressive, democratic approach to the electoral process, particularly where it

concerns women," Mrs. Jandaneh said.

After Nov. 8, the BPWC will not cease its drive, said Ms. Nasser. It will carry it into the future.

During a BPWC political enlightenment meeting in Hama, in southern Jordan, the team was astonished and pleased to discover the women there were able to articulate what one-person, one-vote meant to them, Ms. Nasser recalled.

"Before, they said, with three votes, a woman could vote for the husband's choice, but also cast her own vote for the candidate of her choice. With one-person, one-vote, they felt that the liberty would be lost," said Ms. Nasser. This is where BPWC believes it can make a difference.

JBA to honour senior lawyers

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Bar Association (JBA) Friday announced plans for a general three-day celebration to honour senior lawyers.

On Sept. 16, the first day of the ceremony, which also coincides with the anniversary of the establishment of the association, the presidents of the successive association councils and heads of courts will be honoured.

Nearly 3,000 lawyers from Jordan and the Arab World are expected to attend the ceremonies, said Kamal Nassar, the JBA president.

The ceremonies will include an open general meeting during which related topics will be tackled.

Along with the ceremonies there will be a general conference

addressing legal matters concerning company laws and lectures by law professors of Jordanian and other Arab universities, said Dr. Nassar.

The conference, he said, is aimed at contributing to the development of the legal process and helping lawyers to exchange information and put forth proposals to modernise Jordanian laws.

Taking part in the conference, he said, are bar association presidents from Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Tunisia, Bahrain, Qatar, and Kuwait.

According to Dr. Nassar, the Jordanian Bar Association, which was founded in 1950, will distribute awards to those new lawyers who have excelled in their two-year training courses.

International conference to address primary materials used in industry

AMMAN (Petra) — The University of Jordan and the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA) Friday announced plans to hold an international conference in Amman next month to discuss primary materials used in industry.

The announcement said that the four-day conference, to open on Sept. 6, will be attended by at least 150 engineers from Jordan and other countries.

The conference will review 33 working papers dealing with various materials used in the construction industry, sources of primary materials, prospects for

utilising their resources in Jordan, the transfer of technology in industry, alternative materials used in industries and other topics.

Other working papers will address the strategies of scientific research in the technology of primary goods, quality control, specifications and standards and training cadres to deal with these materials, said the announcement which noted that the meetings will be held at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman.

It said that the speakers will focus attention on the need to opt

for locally-produced primary materials to be used in industry.

One of the conference days will be dedicated to visits to various industrial businesses at the Sahab Industrial City, the announcement said.

It added that an exhibition will be organised in Amman to orient the public on Jordanian, Arab and international industries.

Major Jordanian as well as Arab and foreign industrial firms will take part in the exhibition. The conference will be opened by University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh.

Shipping line takes delivery of new vessel

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan National Shipping Lines (JNSL) announced Friday that it had taken delivery of a 15,000 tonne vessel to help increase the export of phosphate and other materials to India and Asian nations.

JNSL Director General Yasser Tel said the new vessel, which cost \$4.22 million, and is to be named "Al Hassa" will join two others also used to transport phosphate and other goods between Jordan and European and Asian destinations.

The company hopes to get a \$10 million loan by the end of the year to buy a multi-purpose ship to operate between Aqaba and northern Europe. Mr. Tel said.

Jordan, Japan agree to boost food production

AMMAN (Petra) — A Japanese team of agricultural experts concluded its visit to Jordan and talks with the Ministry of Agriculture by signing minutes of deliberations concerning cooperation in boosting food production.

The signing by Ministry Secretary General Ghaleb Abu Arrabi and the head of visiting Japanese team followed intensive study of Jordan's needs for equipment to ensure increased food production.

A statement issued Friday, summing up the talks, said the agreement was reached on augmenting efforts for the production of field crops in the rain-fed regions and potatoes in the Jordan Valley.

According to the statement,

special attention to food production was given to northern, central and southern highlands and the Jordan Valley.

It stressed the need for increasing automated agricultural equipment, fertilisers and pesticides as needed inputs for such increases.

At the start of the meetings on Aug. 17, Minister of Agriculture Marwan Kamal noted that lack of sufficient agricultural equipment was among the main reasons for the low rate of cereal production in Jordan.

Some of the machinery and equipment needed include harvesters to reap lentils and chick peas, a process which is still being done manually.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Shaker Al Shadi at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by 25 Jordanian artists at the Housing Bank Complex exhibition hall.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Bishara Najjar at Eshbelia Art Gallery, Amra Shopping Centre. The paintings depict Jordanian-Palestinian heritage, Jordanian antiquities, Arab Jerusalem, rural life and

natural scenery.
★ Opening of new art gallery, "Darat Al Fann," of the Abdul Majed Shoman Foundation. Programme includes the permanent exhibition and the "Chair" exhibition in Jabal Laweidbeh.

SHOWS

- ★ Play entitled "Crescent Night" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.
- ★ "The Eternal Torch," a variety of Circassian dances performances by Al-Jeel Al-Jadeed Club at the club's premises in the Seventh Circle. Painting and handicrafts exhibition on sidelines.



COLOURFUL CIRCASSIAN CULTURAL NIGHT

Deputising for Her Majesty Queen Noor, Their Royal Highnesses Princess Aisha Bint Al Hussein and Princess Rania Abdullah Thursday night inaugurated Al Jeel Al Jadeed Festival for Culture and Arts in Amman. The week-long festival held to mark the 41st anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the throne. Established in 1950, the club aims at highlighting the culture and traditions of Circassians living in Jordan through various social, cultural and artistic activities. At the festival, the Princesses inaugurated an exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artists. Following, they attended a dance performance by Al Jeel Al-Jadeed Folklore Troupe, a group of 160 young men and women who had been rehearsing intensely for 3 months in preparation for the festival. The show, entitled "The Eternal Torch," depicts picturesque images of Circassian social and cultural life. The folklore troupe has participated in several national events, such as the Jerash Festival, as well as in international events.

Abdoun, where participants enjoyed performances staged by the RJ Folklore Troupe and the Haya Arts Centre Band.

The marchers were also entertained with music played by Armed Forces Band.

At the end of the march, Princess Haya was awarded the JASS trophy in appreciation of her efforts in supporting the society.

Also taking part in the march was Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas.

The march was spurred by Princess Haya, who called for a clean and smoke free environment in Jordan.

Its aim is to raise public awareness of the danger of the nicotine habit, including the hazards of smoke to non-smokers.

5,000 march against smoking

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein Friday joined about 5,000 marchers in an anti-smoking march organised by the Jordanian Anti-Smoking Society (JASS), in cooperation with the Royal Jordanian and the Haya Arts Centre.

The march started at 9:00 a.m. from the Haya Arts Centre and ended at the Orthodox Club in



Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein Friday marches with about 5,000 anti-smoking activists (Petra photo)

Jordan Times

An Independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975
Jordan Times يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telefax: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Sanctions hurt all

ANKARA has every right to ask the U.N. Security Council to review trade sanctions against Iraq. "The embargo has not achieved its objective," asserted a Turkish adviser to Tansu Ciller, the Turkish prime minister, Tuesday, adding the sanctions have "hurt the Iraqi people." This Turkish assessment measures up well to the after-effects of the three-year-old international sanctions against Iraq and reflects accurately the view shared by many other countries in the world.

True Turkey has sustained substantial losses as a result of the sanctions in the aftermath of the Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait in 1990 especially due to the closure of the 980-kilometre pipeline that connects Kirkuk oilfields with a Turkish terminal on the Mediterranean coast. But the reasons for Turkey to speak out now beyond its humanitarian concern for Iraq to touch upon the true objectives of the embargo.

The role of Iraq in the Gulf region remains to be critical as far as the establishment of balance of power in the area is concerned. Iran is increasingly flexing its muscles everywhere in the Gulf region and unless there is such a balance, the stability and security of the states of the area would continue to be jeopardised and undermined.

The international community is invited to look beyond the issue of "Saddam in power" and think more in terms of the indispensable role that that important Arab country can perform in the future of the Middle East. Staying the present course vis-a-vis Iraq has become self-defeating. Turkey and other countries are therefore speaking up now against the current bankrupt U.N. policy towards the Arab Gulf state.

Jordan is also severely affected by the perpetuation of the sanctions against Iraq. Free international shipping to Aqaba is constantly being interfered with raising in the process freight charges to Jordan via the port by up to 40 per cent. Considerable percentage of Jordanian industrial production was marketed in Iraq till the onset of the Gulf crisis. Now Jordanian industries have been effectively denied this indispensable market. What adds insult to injury is the continued closure of the Gulf markets for Jordanian trade and commerce. Other countries are also hurt by this short-sighted policy.

Presumably this and other related issues are the subject of bilateral talks between Amman, Ankara and other states. Other interested governments are expected to pick up where the Turkish government has left off. Still the key to this issue remains in the hands of Washington. The Clinton administration has yet to develop a fresh start in that direction. With more states joining the chorus of voices calling for a review of the present U.N. course, the U.S. should be expected to show more understanding of the new will of the international community and apply a more meaningful response.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

SAWT AL SHAAB daily focused attention on the outcome of the Palestinian-Jordanian talks and coordination of stands, noting that the visit to Jordan by Palestine President Yasser Arafat was yet another step forward. The last meeting between Mr. Arafat and King Hussein resulted in the formation of six joint committees to coordinate matters between the two sides in economic, border and many other matters, said the daily. These committees are now being given momentum and their work is being boosted for the best interest of the two peoples, continued the daily. We demand that coordination be held at the highest possible level and unity of stand be achieved in all matters especially those affecting the future relationship after the end of the Israeli occupation, said the paper. Furthermore, said the paper, the Arab countries involved in the peace process should unify their stand at the Friday meeting in Beirut, prior to resuming talks with Israel at the end of this month, in order to maintain the solid Arab stand and back the Palestinians in their endeavours to regain freedom.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily bitterly criticised a statement by Marwan Dudin, head of the Jordanian side to the Jordanian-Palestinian Economic Committee, for declaring that steps are being taken to facilitate trade between the West Bank under autonomy rule and Jordan. Israel would definitely oppose any form of autonomy rule for the Palestinians if it were not linked to the Israeli economy and therefore any Jordanian-Palestinian trade would mean Jordanian-Israeli trade, said Fahd Al Fanek. Warning against this step as a dangerous one to the Jordanian industry in particular, Fanek does not recommend such a practice said the writer. He warned that such a step would cause the total collapse of the Jordanian industry because the Kingdom would be flooded with Israeli-made goods, not because they are cheaper or of better quality, but because the Israeli industry is subsidised by at least \$6 billion annually.

Jordanian Perspective

By Dr. Musa Keilani

IAF decision — voice of reason and logic

All those who support the democratisation process of Jordan can have a sigh of relief now that the Islamic Action Front (IAF) has decided to participate in the general elections. Not that there was any real doubt that the front, the political arm of the Muslim Brotherhood, or any other political party would have boycotted the Nov. 8 polls, but, the formal IAF decision means not only Islamist participation in the elections but also pulls the rug from under the feet of other groups which might have contemplated a boycott.

Now that the threat of a boycott has been removed, it is interesting to look at what went behind the scenes at the IAF headquarters in Abdali and in the homes of prominent Brotherhood activists in the past few days leading to Thursday's decision and whether the group has anything up its sleeve.

For one thing, the IAF decision establishes that the moderates in the group prevailed over the hardliners. But the overriding factor in the equation is the admirable discipline in the ranks of the Brotherhood as evident in the admission of hardliners that they had no choice but to go along with the decision of the political leadership to partake in the elections despite their reservations.

Of course, now the battle within the IAF ranks will be for candidacies. No doubt, the hardliners will be pressing for a higher level of representation in the final list of candidates. Their arguments will be two-pronged: That they are going along with the decision to take part in the elections and therefore should be rewarded and that a message should be sent to the political scene by ensuring a strong non-moderate Islamist voice in Parliament despite the one-person, one-vote formula which they consider as targeting them.

Numerous other factors will come into play in drawing up the final list of candidacies, but the net outcome could very well be a higher proportion of Islamist hardliners sitting under the Brotherhood banner in the domed Parliament than the Brotherhood bloc in the 11th Parliament.

In practical terms, it means a none-too-soft response to government moves and fireworks on the Parliament floor. The hardline camp may not be too prone to avoiding polemics and holding any punches over every issue that they think the government favours. Quite simply, it will be a question of the hardliners opposing everything the government proposes simply because the government proposed it.

Indeed, heated debates in Parliament are an essential part of a lively democratic life; let us hope that lines will be drawn when it comes to issues that are of serious impact on our lives and that the hardliners will see the wisdom in endorsing moves that serve the society.

Anxiety to avoid a political confrontation with the regime and be deprived of a role in mainstream politics of the country by

staying away from the polls indeed played a key role in shaping the IAF decision to go to the elections.

I am one of those who believe that in the Nov. 8 elections the Brotherhood will retain its power base in the Lower House of Parliament — give or take a couple of seats from the 23-strong bloc in the 11th legislature — despite the electoral change to a one-person, one-vote system. The reasoning is that the Brotherhood has a clearly defined set of priorities. It is the most disciplined group in the country, its members believe in what they are doing and its ideology, political Islam, is not at all alien to the Jordanian society.

The frustration over the unfavourable climate of the Middle East peace process and the pressure that the Palestinians find themselves under to make concessions after concessions are elements that the Brotherhood will translate into ballots in its favour on Nov. 8. By the same token, the obvious inability of the Arabs and Muslims to do anything to fight what many see as western hegemony — American decisions and strategies to be more precise — will be another of its cards, particularly given the suffering of the Iraqi people and the impunity with which Washington and allies adopt and implement decisions against Iraq and Libya.

Leftist groups could also lay claim to representing the tug-of-war against the West, but they lack the religious aura which gives better legitimacy to the Brotherhood. Furthermore, the argument that Islam has replaced the former Soviet Union as the West's enemy will be in favour of Brotherhood. The indictment of Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman and several other Muslims in the New York World Trade Centre bombing and other alleged conspiracies will, explicitly and implicitly, be turned into aces by the Brotherhood.

Notwithstanding the fear of many in the electorate over some of the Islamic law-oriented objectives of the Brotherhood, the fact remains that the IAF decision to participate in the elections is a voice of reason and logic and falls in line with the "domesticated" image that the group has been presenting for many years.

The hardliners in the group might feel betrayed by the electoral change despite their objections, given that their allegiance to the Hashemite throne regardless of all considerations and political differences remained rocksteady throughout the years.

But it will be a timely reminder to them that a one-person, one-vote system was long overdue. They do have a strong point that such a formula should not have come on its own and that restructuring of electoral districts towards parliamentary representation proportionate to definite regions and areas, is needed.

Then, such changes are also in the making. And this time, it will be the deputies who made it to Parliament under the one-person, one-vote formula who will be debating it. Let us see how they will view such changes that might affect their reelection chances.

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Jordanian-Palestinian coordination at talks is vital for the highest national interests

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

Jordanian-Palestinian coordination, the crisis within the PLO, preparations for the 12th round of Arab-Israeli peace talks and a host of domestic issues were the subjects tackled by the local press in the past week.

Lauding the efforts of the Jordanian-Palestinian committees set up to discuss full cooperation and coordination between the two peoples on either of the River Jordan, a columnist in Al Ra'i said that these committees are faced with a huge task in the course of safeguarding the highest national interests.

It is true that coordination concerning education, health, travel documents and social affairs, among other things, was continuous between the two sides even before the formation of the committees, but now the two sides are taking a step further towards more realistic coordination, thus paving the ground for the nature of the future relationship between the two peoples, said Sultan Al Hattab.

The writer said that although political, social and economic matters are to be streamlined in the committees talks, their joint endeavours to confront the Israeli measures and positions assume priority over others as the two sides are being challenged with the presence of occupation.

Sawt Al Shaab daily described a visit to Jordan by President Yasser Arafat as being one more step towards full integration between Jordan and the Palestinian lands, the paper said.

Thanks to King Hussein and President Arafat, we now have specialised joint committees to take sound steps towards coordination at all levels, leading to full integration.

A columnist in Al Ra'i said that the Jordanian-Palestinian joint committees should realise that the final word is that of Israel vis-a-vis the future of the occupied Arab lands and that their talks over coordination should remain hypothetical until occupation has ended.

Tareq Masarweh said that it is premature for the two sides to enter into discussions concerning the commercial exchange between the East and the West Banks and the opening of Jordanian banks in the occupied territories.

He said that the two sides have to wait until the Palestinians have indeed regained their freedom and are able to control their own destiny, otherwise such economic dealings would be taking place between Israel and Jordan in

an indirect manner.

Arafat Hijazi, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab, said that the PLO's financial crisis is partly to blame on the PLO officials and representatives in various countries.

The writer said that PLO representatives in European countries have been lavishly spending and squandering PLO funds and rumours have it that the former PLO representative in Paris has accumulated a vast wealth before emigrating to Canada following his acquisition of French citizenship.

One should not place all the blame on the Gulf states or Libya for failing to come to the help of the PLO, said the writer, as senior PLO officials should take the blame for the present crisis.

A columnist in Al Dustour defended the PLO position, noting that the financial crisis facing the organisation was a result of the Arab countries' failure to come to the help of the Palestinians.

Mohammad Kawash charged that the Arab states are in collusion with foreign powers trying to tighten the noose around the PLO and force it to accept the Israeli peace formula.

He also criticised those PLO officials who are now abandoning the organisation, at a time when it is faced with having to make crucial decisions.

Al Ra'i Arabic daily described King Hussein's visit to Oman as part of the Monarch's endeavours to reestablish solidarity among Arab countries.

We are delighted to see King Hussein and Sultan Qaboos taking the first step towards ending Arab differences and reestablishing collective action on the part of Arab leaderships vis-a-vis common issues facing the Arab Nation, said the paper. It said that only through inter-Arab cooperation can the Arabs find solutions for their problems.

Sultan Al Hattab, a columnist in Al Ra'i, praised Oman for its moderate policies. Throughout its history, Oman has been following moderate policies in its relations with Asian, European and Arab countries and has maintained strong ties with Jordan, said the writer.

King Hussein's visit to Oman, said the writer was timely and would no doubt mark the first step towards healing rifts among Arab leaders.

Referring to the Friday meeting in Beirut by the foreign ministers of countries involved in the peace talks with Israel,

Al Dustour daily said that one cannot expect from such a meeting to achieve a great deal apart from reaffirming the joint Arab stand with regard to the talks which are due to resume on Aug. 31.

The daily said the Arab masses hope that this meeting would manifest more cohesion among the Arabs in the face of Israel's political manoeuvres and would come to a decision of a joint stand, demanding real contribution towards peace on the part of the United States.

Ibrahim Al Absi, a columnist in Al Ra'i said that it is the Arab Nation's weakness that lends strength to the Israelis who are constantly backed by the United States.

The writer cast a pessimistic view on the ongoing negotiations and said that Washington, finding itself unable to keep its promise to play the role of active partner, could resort to shuttle diplomacy to keep the contacts going, but very little is expected from these contacts, anyway.

Mohammad Kawash expected the peace talks to take at least 13 rounds, like the Arab television series with a dramatic end.

The columnist, who writes for Al Dustour, said that we might witness the declaration of a Palestine government in parts of the occupied land but without Jerusalem at the end of the coming two sessions.

The writer also said that the present PLO crisis is part of the scenario which aims at imposing a U.S.-Israeli peace formula on the Arab countries and the Palestinians.

Saleh Qallab, a columnist in Al Dustour, criticised the Arab League for striking off the "boycott list" names of foreign companies doing business with Israel.

He said that this step should not have been taken because many of those firms have Israeli capital and have special dealings with Israel.

The writer said that the peace talks do not mean that Israel and the Arabs have finalised a settlement acceptable to the future generations and therefore the boycott regulations should stand until peace has been achieved.

A columnist in Al Dustour described the public administration in Jordan as overly manned, with many of the civil servants having very little to do. Arguing his point, Abdullah Al Khatib said that in two of his visits to two government ministries for official business, he saw most of the employees either reading newspapers or having breakfast.

The writer said it was only

with difficulty that he was able to have his business carried out despite the fact that the employees had very little to do. He added that his visit coincided with a visit to one of the two ministries by the Prime Minister who has been urging civil servants to work as servants to the public.

Taher Al Udwan, a columnist in Al Dustour, criticised the current procedures at the state-owned universities which deprive students with high grades of the right to choose their own subjects for study.

Even those who acquired 90 per cent in the tawjihi examination are not allowed to select their own specialisation, said the writer. This means that unlike other countries which honour those excelling in their courses and opens the door wide for them to choose their fields of study, the education system in Jordan is obsolete and is telling students there is no point in being diligent and excelling in their efforts and results.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab directed attention to the private schools which, he said, try to impose overcharge fees on the students and at the same time mistreat their teachers.

Ahmad Dabbas said that the school administrations are increasingly showing their disregard for the Ministry of Education's regulations concerning the school fees. These are increased every year while the schools disregard the rights of their teachers who more often than not are forced to accept humiliating agreements in view of the high rates of unemployment in the country.

The writer urged the ministries of education and labour to intervene and protect the parents and the teachers from such malpractices.

Musa Shuqair, a columnist in Al Dustour, stressed that the presence of opposition to the government was a manifestation of a contribution to the country's democracy.

It is natural for the political parties and the opposition to have different views from those of the government concerning the peace talks or the amendments to the Election Law and other matters. The writer said that it is undemocratic for the daily newspapers to support the view of one side against the others. Should the daily papers pursue this line they would lose credibility, she said.

The daily newspapers should be allowed to express the real views of the public, for or against developments, laws and policies of the government, said the writer.

U.S. Supreme Court has helped expand civil rights since 1963

By Paul Malamud

WASHINGTON — For four decades the U.S. Supreme Court has had a significant impact on the civil rights movement in the United States, and that influence grew markedly in the years following the late Martin Luther King's historic march on Washington on Aug. 28, 1963, to demand civil justice for America's blacks.

In 1954 in the "Brown versus Board of Education" decision, the court had declared that segregation of blacks and whites in the public school system was unconstitutional. That decision helped spur the civil rights movements of the late 1950s — almost entirely focused on the plight of southern blacks — that culminated in the 1963 march.

After 1963, the court continued in a liberal direction, taking further steps to outlaw discrimination based on race, creed and gender. Many of these court decisions were based on interpretations of civil rights legislation passed by Congress in the 1960s, including the omnibus Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Fair Housing Act of 1968.

In the 1970s, court decisions led to controversial experiments in "social engineering" — requiring, for instance, that white students be bused to black neighbourhoods or that black students be transported to white neighbourhoods to attend school if that was the only way to desegregate public schools.

In addition, the court made it legal — in some instances — to institute preferences for women and people of colour in university admissions and in hiring practices, even if such preferences adversely impacted on whites and men. The court has been cautious about "affirmative action" or "reverse discrimination" as this policy is called, but in general has found it constitutional.

The critical role of the Supreme Court in the U.S. civil rights revolution derives from its role as a co-equal branch of the federal government with the legislative and executive branches.

Since the founding of the republic, the court has asserted its prerogative to judge whether laws passed by Congress and signed by the president — as well as the statutes of state and local authority — are in accord with the fundamental principles of the U.S. Constitution, and, if they are not, to nullify them. If the court determines that laws are unconstitutional, it frequently interprets them and spells out their application. It may order governmental bodies — or private institutions — to take action to implement legislation once it is found to be constitutional.

The court's power in the civil rights arena has been demonstrated partly because Congress has tended to shy away from enforcing group "rights," leaving it to the presidentially appointed Supreme Court justices — who are not elected officials — to do so.

Since the late 1960s, the court has focused on school desegregation, housing discrimination and employment rights as areas of civil rights litigation. While questions of racial discrimination predominated in the 1960s, the rights of women were spotlighted in the 1970s. There have also been several important court decisions supporting the rights of individuals. The issue of homosexual rights is now beginning to have more of an impact on the U.S. legal system.

In general, Americans have accepted and supported the movement towards a society in which rights are protected for all citizens; however, some argue that the court's interpretive discovery of individual rights that may not have been spelled out in the Constitution has progressed to a level where the rights of the community as a whole have become secondary to the rights of the individual.

Following are some of the landmark decisions related to civil rights made by the Supreme Court during the past 30 years:

— 1963, Gideon versus Wainwright: The court declared that states must provide legal assistance to all defendants charged with serious crimes, regardless of their ability to pay, thus ensuring that impoverished defendants would have access to legal counsel.

— 1964, New York Times versus Sullivan: The court enlarged freedom of the press by ruling that public officials and public figures can recover damage for libelous statements only if they can prove the statements were published with the intent of "actual malice."

— 1965, Griswold versus Connecticut: The court struck down a state law forbidding the use of contraceptives, ruling that such laws violate a constitutionally

based right to privacy.

— 1966, South Carolina versus Katzenbach: The court allowed the federal government to exercise increased power to combat racial discrimination in voting.

— 1966, Jones versus Mayer: The court prohibited racial discrimination in the sale of real estate.

— 1966, Miranda versus Arizona: The court ruled that police may not interrogate suspects until they have been informed of their constitutional rights and their right to have an attorney present during interrogation.

— 1971, Swann versus Charlotte-Mecklenburg County Board of Education: The court ruled unanimously that "forced busing" of students and other administrative measures are permissible to achieve school desegregation, provided that segregation exists as a result of previous state practices. (In numerous subsequent rulings, the court clarified the conditions under which "forced busing" could be required.)

— 1971, Griggs versus Duke Power Company: The court ruled unanimously that the Civil Rights Act of 1964 bars employers from requiring job applicants to provide a high school diploma or intelligence test scores unless such requirements are related to specific skills necessary for the job being sought. The court also barred intelligence test results when they disqualify more black applicants than white applicants.

"In general, Americans have accepted and supported the movement towards a society in which rights are protected for all citizens; however, some argue that the court's interpretive discovery of individual rights that may not have been spelled out in the Constitution has progressed to a level where the rights of the community as a whole have become secondary to the rights of the individual."

— 1971, Reed versus Reed: The court struck down an Idaho statute that gave preference to males in administering estates. The court ruled that to be constitutional, a gender-based preference "must be reasonable, not arbitrary."

— 1971, Phillips versus Martin Marietta Corporation: The court ruled it is illegal for a corporation to refuse to hire women with pre-school-age children unless such a distinction is a "bona fide occupational qualification."

— 1973, Norwood versus Harrison: The court ruled that private schools may discriminate on the basis of race, but that if they do so, they may not receive financial aid from the state.

— 1973, Roe versus Wade: The court legalised a woman's right to choose to have an abortion, in spite of state laws to the contrary.

— 1974, Lau versus Nichols: The court ruled unanimously that, under the Civil Rights Act of 1964, public school officials are obligated to provide remedial instruction or bilingual education to non-English-speaking students to enable them to attend school.

— 1978, University of California Regents versus Bakke: The court held that preferences for people of colour in university admissions are permissible, as long as they don't constitute strict numerical "quotas" for each race.

— 1977, Doherty versus Rawlinson: The court struck down height and weight requirements for state prison guards — and many other jobs — ruling that they constitute sex discrimination.

— 1979, United Steelworkers versus Weber: The court determined that private corporations may adopt voluntary "affirmative action" programmes to eliminate past racial imbalances in employment, even if they impact negatively on whites and on males.

— 1980, Fullilove versus Klutznick: The court upheld the power of Congress to grant preferences to minority-owned businesses in the awarding of certain public contracts.

— 1987, Johnson versus Transportation Agency, Santa Clara County, California: The court approved the use of affirmative action by the Santa Clara County Transportation Department to promote a woman over a man who had scored slightly higher in a promotion interview. — United States Information Agency.

JUST 24
Court
id
1963

privacy
th Carolina
he court
government
power to
nation in
res versus
ibited racial
sale of real
anda versus
ruled that
egate suscep
i informed st
n attorney
gation.

Swana
Klenburg
Gation. The
usly that
ndents and
measures
ieve school
ided that
a result of
(In numer
ps, the con
itions under
g" could b

rigs vers
ny: The com
hat the Chrl
an employe
applicans
school (the
test score
ens are rel
necessar)
ght. The on
gence has
quality me
in white spe

eral. Am
ve accep
ported t
t town
which rig
acted in
however
ue that
interpret
y of his
hts that
been sp
Constitu
ressed i
re the r
mmunity
ave bex
ry to a
f the is

Reed vers
ck down
gave profes
ministering
ed that he
ender-head
be reasona

hillips vers
poration: The
geal for a
hire wome
tion is a
workload
out ruled
may discrim
ace, but that
say not reser
the state
oe versus the
d a woman
ave an abse
Lau versus
ruled man
the Civil Rig
ic school off
provide res
lingual obs
speaking one
to attend
iversity of
that predom
colour in ar
are persons
don't consum
quotas" in

Dothand vers
court sm
weight reaso
ison guard
jobs — w
ute sex des

United States
27: The con
private corp
untary wh
rammes in
nbalances
if they sup
ities and
ullow reaso
ur uphold
to grant pro
owned busi
of cerem

Johnson vers
agency. Sen
diformer. The
e use of abse
e Santa Chrl
ion. Depose
woman on
red signifi
interview. Ap

Features

One flew out of the cuckoo's nest

JIMMY LAING'S book, "Fifty Years in the System," is not a comfortable read. Throughout it the reader is an uneasy voyeur to a procession of grim details. Worse, the narrator's acceptance of his awful fate is so mute, it makes you want to reach into the pages, grab him by the lapels and tell him to sort himself out.

Yet there is no doubt that of all the literary gongs handed out this year, the one Melvyn Bragg handed Jimmy Laing at the Barbican Centre in London was the most deserved. It was the Mind Book Of The Year, awarded by the charity to the work making the most significant contribution to public awareness of mental health problems.

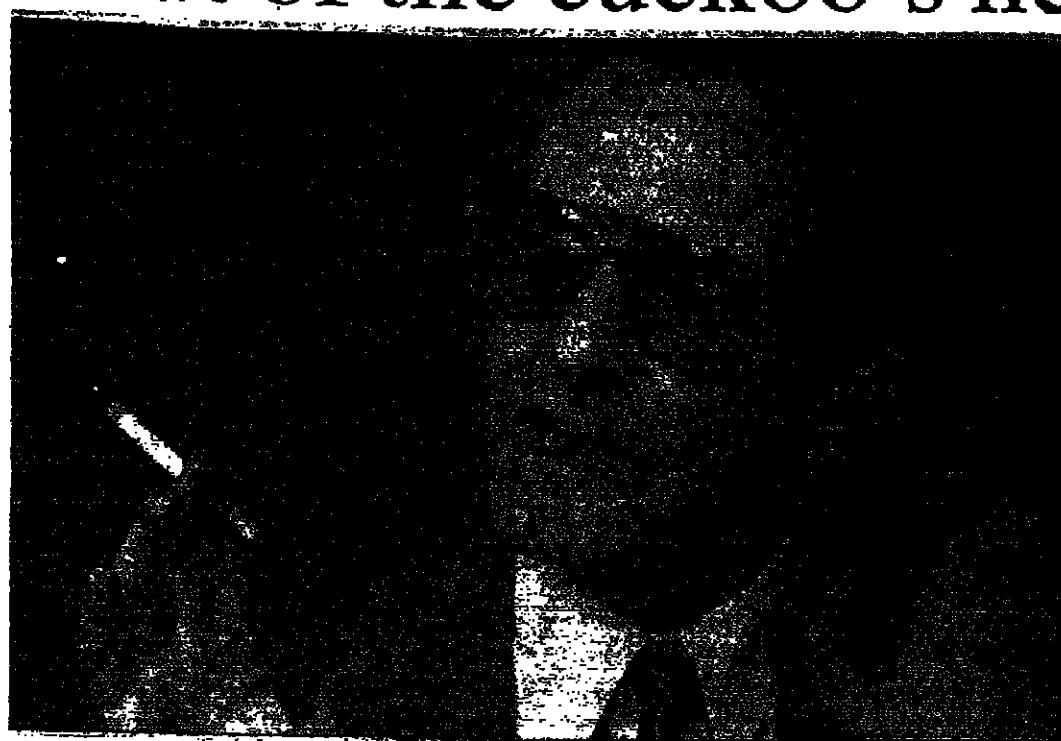
"I have been asked to say a few words and I will obey," said Jimmy as he accepted his prize. "I have been brought up to do what I am told."

While winners of the Booker or Whitbread might have spent a couple of years in a garret preparing their work, Jimmy's was longer in its research. Fifty Years in the System tells of his life in Scottish mental institutions. Like all good readers, there is a twist to his story: Jimmy was locked away for half a century without doing anything wrong; he was never properly assessed or diagnosed. He was simply abandoned.

"When I look back on my life I am reminded of a Walt Disney film," he said after the award lunch. "Absurd, quite absurd."

A drapper man at 65, with a meticulous manicure, snappy suit and polished shoes, Jimmy Laing has the look of Kenneth Williams playing a gangster. But the facial scars and missing teeth are due to accidents and lack of dentistry, not fights. He is gentle and courteous, and tells his story with candour.

It opens in Perth, just before the war. His father was in the army, his mother couldn't cope with her hyperactive son, and with half a dozen other children to raise, she was relieved to get him off her hands. He was nine when his parents put him into



Jimmy Laing

care. He spent his youth in places so grim they made Dostoevsky Hall in Nicholas Nickleby look like a Montessori nursery. Beating and sodomy were the main subjects on the curriculum. War came and went, his mother shackled up with another man, and nobody seemed to notice that Jimmy was still inside. He just drifted from special school to mental hospital.

As he grew up, his life became one long plateau of mind-numbing dullness, punctuated by moments of mind-boggling cruelty. There was the time, for instance, when he was lying up outside a hospital medical room to receive electroconvulsive therapy. The screams from inside made him panic and he ran. It took six hospital orderlies to catch him. They had difficulty in restraining him for the treatment because they weren't allowed to strap him to the bed. "I found out afterwards this was because when the electrodes were attached to

the temples and the charge passed through you, you would leap three feet in the air. They discovered that if patients were strapped down, they would break their backs."

Much of the cruelty, however, was not physical. He was particularly appalled by the widespread use of drugs to suppress patients. "When I first went into hospital I met all sorts: popes, kings, a dozen Jesus Christs. These people went in and reality hit them smack in the face and they thought, 'Uh-oh, I'm going to get out of this. I'm going to be someone else.' And they were very happy at their new selves."

Then, in the mid-Sixties, along came tranquillisers. "It ruined their lives. No longer were they Jesus or George III, 24 hours a day they sat there gibbering. It was absolute bloody abuse."

He would abscond frequently, but always blew it. Once he hitched to Cornwall, set himself up with work and accommodation,

and thought he had escaped. Then, one day, he saw a policeman questioning someone near his lodgings. Wrongly assuming it was about him, he legged it back to Scotland, to the hospital, where he gave himself up.

"Each time I escaped, I hoped someone would say, 'Yes he can

then put to bed and made to wear pyjamas for the next three days. Often he would be punished with a course of laxatives."

During an escape in the mid-Seventies, he went to visit his mother. It was a big mistake. Her lover, a man called Jock McNab, threw him out. So incensed was Jimmy that he went up to the first policeman he saw and announced: "I'm Jimmy Laing. I'm going to kill Jock McNab." With his mental-hospital record, it was not a wise thing for Jimmy to do. He was sent to Carstairs secure hospital, Scotland's Broadmoor, to which child molesters and serial killers are dispatched and from which absconding is not an issue. The length of his sentence was not specified.

In Carstairs, Jimmy became adept at playing the system, telling doctors what they wanted to hear, taking part in petty thefts from store rooms, buttering up the violent nurses. "In the morning, you would look at the list of nurses in charge and think, 'Oh God, it's him,' he said. "You'd know he was the one who liked tea and toast at 10, so you made sure he got it. It worked. You could get away with murder for the rest of the day. Not literally, of course."

And in all that time, nobody ever told Jimmy what was wrong with him. All they said was that his condition was "custodial."

BOOK REVIEW

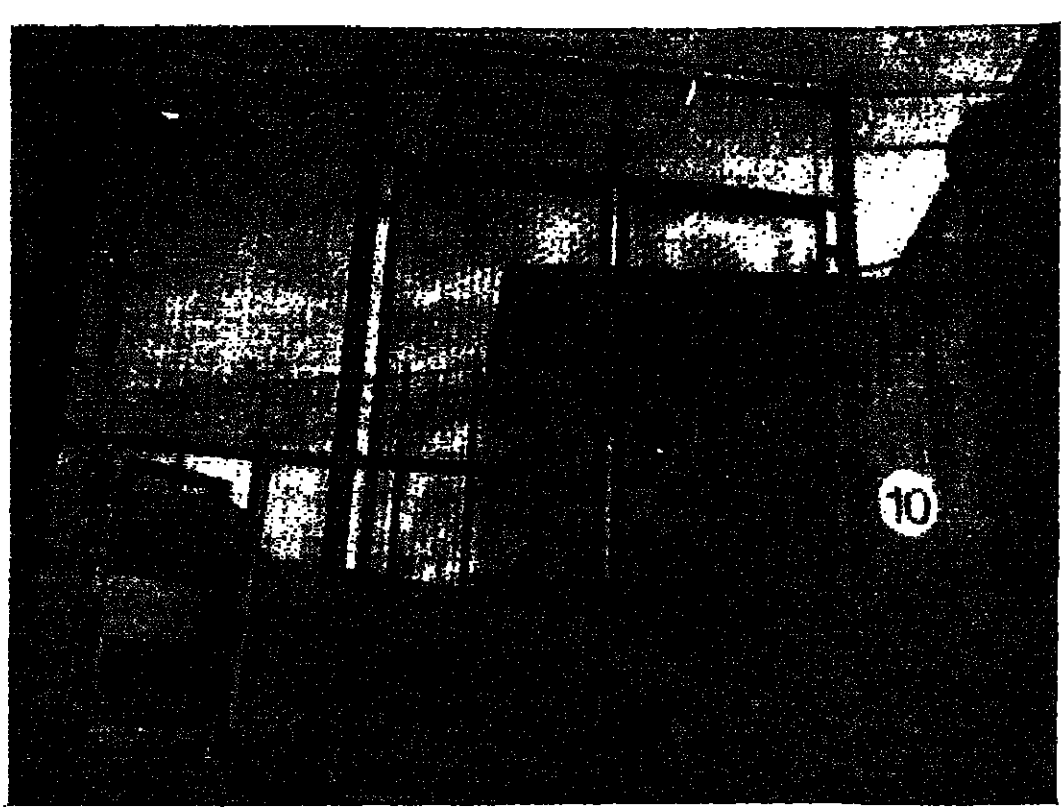
Fifty Years in the System by Jimmy Laing with Dermot McQuarrie. Published by Corgi, £5.99.

do it, he's made it, let's leave him," remembered Jimmy. "No one ever did. Without legitimacy, it was inevitable I would go back. There was a magnetic pull back to the institution, but I wasn't holding the magnet. You couldn't really be free until that signature was there on paper."

Every time he was taken back to hospital, he was given a bath,

"I remember one doctor saying, 'By Christ, James, somebody's made a hell of a mistake with you.' But he never did anything about it. It was another 10 years until I was released."

Moreover, in half a century, Jimmy never thought it was his place to ask what was wrong with him. This was what institutions did for him, encouraging a helpless



Carstairs, where Mr. Laing was held with killers and child molesters

acceptance of his lot. Take the incident when, having absconded, he naively accepts the offer of a bed for the night from a man he met in the street. "During the night I was awakened by him kissing and fondling me," Jimmy writes.

Institutions took away his power of self-determination and replaced it with a routine. Scoring petty triumphs over this routine was what he lived for. Was he completely institutionalised by then? "No, no, no," he said. "I hate that word, it's a horrible word. No, I kept my sanity. I'm not quite sure how, but I had an inner determination to overcome it. God knows where it came from."

Jimmy shows no hint of self-pity. When he was asked what was the worst thing that happened to him in 50 years in hospital, he paused, then said: "It was something that I witnessed almost every day. It was when old people were admitted to the hospital. It was the practice of the nurses to take the wedding ring, a

mark of love that had been there perhaps 60 years, off their finger. And they took away their other personal effects and put them in envelopes. Then they would run an inventory, one nurse with a clipboard, one looking at the patient. "What colour's his socks? 'Brown.' 'What colour's his trousers? 'Blue.' They didn't see the pain they were causing. Among the many horrors, this was the most obscene."

Fortunately, this was not to be Jimmy's fate. Despite the sneers of the nurses ("you'll be back, son") he survived triumphantly when he was released, by a more enlightened regime, in 1987. He wrote his book on the advice of his wife, whom he married in the halfway hospital he was sent to after Carstairs. "It was a cleansing exercise," he said. "I had no idea it would be published, nor that it would touch so many people."

Now he is feted by the psychiatric establishment whose members used only to patronise him. He has recently been

appointed visiting lecturer on mental illness at Caledonian University in Glasgow ("I hope my old doctors read that").

And now, here he is, the man who was for 50 years regarded as too much of a risk to be let out, rubbing shoulders with Melvyn Bragg and Fay Weldon, delivering an accomplished speech at a literary luncheon.

What would have happened to him, did he think, if, aged 59, he had been released and hadn't written his book? "I shudder to think," he said. "But it is not so much the book which gave me support. It is my wife. Without her, I expect I would have ended up down there at Waterloo under the arches. I am extremely lucky."

"I was signing books in Bourne-mouth the other day and this old man of 75 came up to me and said with great pride, 'Fifty years in the system? That's nothing. I did 60'. You see, I am not alone. There are an awful lot of Jimmy Laings."

Jim White

Slovakia — the curse of independence

By Justin Keay

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia — When Czechoslovakia split at the end of last year, most observers argued that its poor eastern third would be the biggest loser. They are being proved right with a vengeance. While the Czech Republic moves from strength to strength, becoming flavour of the year for businessmen and tourists, Slovakia, which hoped independence would raise its prominence, has become a backwater. Little has gone right since it gained independence.

"Right now, this place is a mess: nobody knows what's going on," says David Ashcroft, an American resident in Bratislava. "You think you've got a grip on things, and then they change again — and usually for the worse."

The country's fate seems embodied by its prime minister, former boxer Vladimir Meciar, father of independence. Once seen as politically astute, he was outmanoeuvred by his Czech counterpart Václav Klaus during the so-called velvet divorce. Today he is adrift, languishing at around 20 per cent in opinion polls (as opposed to 60 per cent a year ago), apparently unable to define what path Slovakia should follow. Support for independence, never strong because most Slovaks felt it was politically motivated, is now weaker than ever.

National pride received a bad knock in July when the government was forced to devalue the Slovak crown by 10 per cent against its Czech counterpart and against other countries: the loss of parity with the Czechs stirred up age-old feelings of inferiority. Further devaluations — maybe

by as much as 20 per cent — are inevitable, which will reinforce suspicions that independence has become something of a curse. Although few will admit to it, Slovaks increasingly feel they've been had.

Foreign policy has been shaky, especially with regard to the Czech Republic over the separation of the Czech and Slovak currencies and most recently over Prague's headline interpretation of border agreements. And Slovakia is bickering with Hungary over an enormous dam project on the Danube which was launched by communist governments in Budapest and Prague and was to straddle both countries. Deemed an ecological disaster, the project was stopped by Hungary after the disintegration of the Soviet bloc, but Slovakia wants to go ahead with the project, already partly built.

Hungary is also accusing Slovakia of discriminating against ethnic Hungarians. As for its relations with the West, they generally have been testy, with Slovakia resenting its poor image but apparently unable to do much to improve it.

Mr. Meciar's credibility has been further damaged by a succession of resignations, including respected Foreign Minister Milan Kuzko, Economy Minister Ludovít Cernak and more recently, the Minister for Privatisation Lubomir Dolgos, whose departure deprived Mr. Meciar's party, the HZDS (Movement for a Democratic Slovakia) of a majority in parliament. Tortuous negotiations with the right-wing Slovak National Party recently broke down, reportedly due to personality clashes. Needless to say,

resignations are continuing, even at ambassadorial level; neighbouring Hungary, with whom relations are delicate, to say the least, is just one country without official Slovak representation.

As a newly-independent country, Slovakia was always going to have difficulty in finding decision makers: at government and corporate levels, decisions and foreign contacts were made from Prague. Critics argue that Mr. Meciar's abrasive style has prompted the resignation of experienced, competent people and their replacement by HZDS loyalists (Meciar's party). As a result, policy has become confused and uncertain, as a glance at the new privatisation strategy shows. The first wave of privatisation was concluded last year, largely through the "voucher system" — as in the Czech Republic. The fastest, most radical means of privatisation, this system was pioneered by Czechoslovakia last year. The state gives each citizen a voucher, worth a certain amount, which people are free to invest in companies being privatised.

Other countries in the region have tended to pursue direct privatisation through sales to institutions and individuals.

Critics in the government now believe that the voucher system was "inappropriate" for Slovakia: Indeed, only 87 projects from the first wave have actually been concluded.

"We have not completely ruled out the voucher method for the second wave, but companies need a business plan and capital infusion — and this was not happening," says Dr. Marian Nemec, a former computer salesman



appointed to advise the ministry for privatisation.

Despite this concern, however, little appears to be happening, and indecision reigns. Some suggest, darkly, that Mr. Meciar is deliberately not proceeding with privatisation, because he bought the support of enterprise managers before the election: privatisation would lead, inevitably,

their being replaced by more market-oriented managers.

"He has boxed himself in with cronies and incompetents," says one well-placed observer of Bratislava's political scene, pointing out that Mr. Meciar's provincial background and reputation for political infighting has done little to prepare him for the rigors of governing a country or for dealing with world leaders. "They have no idea what they are doing."

Slovakia's economic prospects are bleak. "We have an excellent location in the very heart of Europe," says Lubomir Hanus, president of Slovakia's Chamber of Commerce, stressing that the country borders five others. "We have an inexpensive yet well-educated and trained workforce, and well-equipped factories." All this has counted for little.

August is peak tourist season in Europe. Prague has never been busier with most hotels filled to

capacity; hordes of Germans, Japanese and Americans make their way through the narrow streets, stopping perhaps for a Big Mac before making their way onto the next attraction. Western companies are there in profusion.

By contrast, Bratislava and the rest of Slovakia seem empty. The capital — which underwent severe socialist reconstruction in the years after World War II — concrete replacing much of the historic town centre — is hardly a tourist magnet, but the picture since independence is one of unrelieved gloom. The brand-new, French-built business hotel, the Danube, feels ghostly, while waiters stand forlornly outside empty restaurants. The picture outside Bratislava is even worse. Only 5 per cent of Czechs now visit the High Tatras region, the mainstay of the tourist industry before independence, as it is now "abroad," and the area remains too under-equipped for large-scale western tourism.

Trade with the Czech Republic is down an estimated 40 per cent compared to last year. Thanks to its former role within the east bloc's Comecon market and regional policy conducted by Prague, export-dependent Slovakia is reliant on products that are either banned — weapons such as the explosive Semtex undetectable by most security equipment — or in global over-supply — such as steel, heavy machinery and petrochemicals. EC quotas and tariffs have contributed to the bleak export prospects of these and most agricultural products.

The tendency is still to lay some of the blame on the Czechs: President Havel comes in for particular criticism over his unilateral decision to call a halt to weapons production in the wake of the collapse of communism.

The Slovak view is that it stemmed either from stupidity or from cunning; the latter view is gaining ground in light of news that the Czechs have now decided to resume arms production and exports.

"Military production has dropped by 91 per cent over the past two years," says Mr. Hanus of the Slovak Chamber, pointing out that some western nations have stepped in to take former Slovak markets. "If this hadn't happened, unemployment here would be only half what it is today."

Even so, the nation would face burgeoning economic problems. Grain output looks set to drop by as much as 50 per cent this year, construction by some 40 per cent. Unemployment is at 14 per cent and rising, even before May's bankruptcy law is fully implemented, while inflation is 22 per cent and set to rise, thanks partly to the currency devaluation. Meanwhile, foreign investment shows little sign of picking up from the tiny \$231 million registered at the end of last year.

Despite their unpromising situation, Slovaks are determined to remain pliant. "Nobody will help us if we do not first help ourselves," says Mr. Hanus. Critics of the government hope that the coming autumn and winter will see it hoist by its own petard.

"My only hope is that this government will somehow be able to hold on until next April or May (until opposition parties can organise), and then be thrown out," says one. "If it goes before that, we'll have a succession of weak governments until Mr. Meciar comes back and says 'You need us to sort out this mess'."

After all the years of disagreement with Prague, Slovakia is on its own and there is no-one left to blame — World News Link.

Burma gets away with it

By Denis D. Gray

The Associated Press

BANGKOK, Thailand — Governments and the United Nations send soldiers, envoys and money around the globe trying to right wrongs. But they have put little pressure on Burma, one of the worst violators of human rights.

Some Asian nations have even championed Burma's position that one nation has no business imposing its human rights standards on another.

This year, the U.N. Commission on Human Rights accused the ruling military junta of torture, summary executions, forced labour, abuse of women and politically motivated arrests and imprisonment. A brutal campaign against rebels of the Karen minority has driven 70,000 refugees into neighbouring Thailand.

President Clinton described the situation in Burma as "a cause for outrage in the international community." His statement was issued July 20 as Aung San Suu

Kyi, leader of the Burmese democracy movement and winner of the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize, began her fifth year under house arrest in Rangoon.

Mrs. Suu Kyi is the only international recognised symbol of the junta's brutality. She rose to prominence during a popular uprising in 1988 that the military crushed by shooting down thousands of protesters. Her political party swept to victory in general elections two years later, but the dictators refused to relinquish power.

Dignitaries and activists abroad have denounced the junta and demanded her release, but there have been few concrete steps other than limited economic sanctions by the United States and European Community.

"Burma is out of everyone's playing field," said Josef Silvestein, a U.S. expert on Burma. "A lot of people don't even know where it's located."

Burma has neither Kuwait's oil nor Bosnia-Herzegovina's

strategic location. Foreign journalists have little access to the country and cannot broadcast the graphic images that sometimes spur action.

In fact, with its longstanding policy of strict isolationism, Burma evokes few images of any kind. And aside from Ms. Suu Kyi, Mr. Silverstein points to an "absence of alternative leadership" foreign governments could support.

Then there is the junta's argument that "no unique model of human rights" should be "superimposed on a given country."

Indonesia and China, both accused of major human rights violations, have been particularly vocal supporters of this theory.

Members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations — Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Brunei and the Philippines — argue that their policy of "constructive engagement" with Burma is more effective than sanctions.

Meanwhile, the regime in Rangoon continues playing what Mr. Silverstein described as a "very skillful game" with the West.

Groups of political prisoners are released periodically, a national congress meets to draft a new constitution and big publicity is given to seizures and destruction of drugs. Mr. Silverstein said the junta also has a Washington lobbyist.

The junta does not mention that the Congress is made up of its supporters and lightweight members of the opposition. Pro-democracy leaders remain under detention, and the relocations of villages, slave labour and forced conscription of people as military porters continues.

Tens of thousands of Burmese have fled to Thailand to escape the bloody campaign to separate guerrillas of the ethnic Karen minority from the civilian population. Refugee workers fear an exodus similar to the flight in 1991 of about 265,000 Muslims from Burma's Arakan State into Bangladesh.

APARTMENT FOR RENT
Deluxe furnished apartment. 180 sq.m. Swiftlyeh.
Three bedrooms. Spacious kitchen and living room.
Telephone plus all amenities. New furniture.
Kindly contact tel. 638031
between 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.,
tel. 693800 between 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

TWO FLATS FOR RENT
Two deluxe furnished flats in Jabal Amman, the First Circle, behind Malhas Hospital.
Each flat consists of 2 bedrooms, salon, dining room, 2 bathrooms, kitchen and veranda with telephone and central heating.
The first flat is located on the second floor and the other one on third floor "roof" with terrace.
Rent to be paid annually.
Call tel. 624730

FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT
First Floor, New Furniture
2 bedrooms, salon, 2 bathrooms, living room, dining room, laundry room and 3 verandas. Central heating, telephone.
Location: Amman-Shmeisani, opposite the European Community mission.
Call at 698093 between 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

Deluxe Furnished Villa For Rent
Consisting of three bedrooms, three salons, three bathrooms, three verandas, modern kitchen, ground hall for games, maidroom, water tank, two garages, large garden planted with trees, deluxe furniture.
Good for diplomatic missions.
Location: Sweifieh by the American embassy road, near Baituna Housing Estate.
Please call the landlord directly, tel. 810980

U.S. share of world trade tops \$1 trillion

WASHINGTON — World trade hit a new record, with imports rising to \$3.8 trillion last year — a rise of 7.7 per cent over the year before, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) reported.

The fund calculated that U.S. imports and exports combined topped \$1 trillion for the first time. The exact total for U.S. 1992 trade was \$1,000,016,000,000.

U.S. imports were at \$552.6 billion and exports at \$447.4 billion, for a deficit of \$105.2 billion. Both exports and imports were larger than those of any other country.

The figures are higher than those issued by the U.S. Department of Commerce, which put total U.S. trade at \$980.7 billion. The fund adjusts what it includes in the figures to conform with comparable results from its 178 member countries.

Japan, though it did less trade, had a surplus of \$107 billion — \$340 billion in exports and \$232.9 billion in imports.

U.S. exports again outpaced Germany's \$429 billion as they did in 1991, after falling behind in 1990 and for several years during

Germany's booming 1980s. Germany's imports amounted to \$408 billion.

The bank's annual "Direction of Trade Statistics Yearbook" was made available this week.

Globally, the increase in trade amounted to 7.7 per cent, according to the fund's "IMF Survey." It appears twice a month. The 1992 increase was better than the four per cent of 1991, though not as high as in the years 1986-90.

The countries of the former Soviet Union and some of its allies did better than the world trend.

"The exports of this group to the rest of the world increased in 1992 by 7.7 per cent, reversing the previous year's 2.5 per cent decline," the fund's analysts said. "Imports continued to decline slightly."

Taken together, the 15 republics that used to make up the Soviet Union had a small export surplus of \$850 million. Their total international dealings were much smaller than those of Western countries.

Developing countries increased their trade — especially their imports — considerably more

than the industrial countries did, continuing a trend. In the past, these countries have usually sold more than they bought, but in 1991 they went into deficit as a group. Last year that deficit more than tripled, to \$106.7 billion.

In the western hemisphere, the rise in the deficit was even faster, from \$5.3 billion to \$27.5 billion, as countries like Argentina gave a warmer welcome to imports.

The IMF said Third World deficits were partly due to recession among the industrial countries, which bought fewer Third World products. Some Asian "tigers," such as South Korea, found their big export gains slowing. At the same time, the Third World has been increasing its appetite for goods from the industrial countries.

"In 1992, for the first time in recent years, the trade balance of the Middle East was not in surplus, recording a deficit of \$2.5 billion," the IMF Survey noted.

Demand for imports increasing as Middle Eastern countries emerged from the Gulf war crisis, and there was a slight decline in their income from oil sales.

Japan jobs data mirror recession

TOKYO (Agencies) — Japan's gloomy unemployment data released Friday underlined a tough reality for hundreds of thousands of job-seekers trapped in a two-year recession.

Although July's jobless rate was 2.5 per cent, the lowest among economic powers and unchanged for three months, job offers continue to decline and show no signs of a rebound.

Friday's announcement of a higher inflation rate in August, caused by poor vegetable crops following an unusually cool summer, coincided with torrential typhoon rain. Bad weather could be a destabilizing factor for prices.

The closely monitored jobs-to-applicants ratio fell to 0.72 in July from 0.74 the previous month, meaning there were only 72 job offers for every 100 applicants.

Without adjustment for seasonal factors, the number of unemployed persons in July totalled 1.59 million, unchanged from June, but up from 1.33 million a year earlier.

Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, speaking in parliament, quickly reacted to the "tough labour climate" by promising flexible expansion of government subsidies to smaller firms so that they could retain abundant workers.

The 0.72 ratio was the lowest since August 1987 when the ratio fell to 0.71, a labour ministry official said. The ratio is unlikely to rebound soon under current stagnant economic conditions, he said.

Economists said the gloomy jobs data would continue to haunt already depressed business sentiment but noted that it takes at least six months for these lagging indicators to reflect an economic recovery.

"Although labour market conditions remain fragile, the deterioration so far is insufficient to preclude economic recovery," wrote Baring Securities economist Geoffrey Barker.

The prolonged recession is taking its toll on women in their 20s, men aged 55-60 years old and the self-employed, an official at the Management and Coordination Agency said.

But a labour shortage exists in some sectors, particularly in small

firms.

Demand for workers is strong from restaurants, construction and pharmaceutical firms, and discount shops, which have traditional resistance to a slump.

"We have the impression that the issue is a mismatch of jobs and job-seekers rather than a sheer imbalance of supply and demand (of labour)," said Yuka Masuda, an editor of a weekly job information magazine, Being, published by recruit Co.

Meanwhile, consumer price inflation in the Tokyo area accelerated to two per cent in August from a year earlier, rising to the two per cent level for the first time since September last year. In July prices rose a revised 1.6 per cent.

Prices of fresh vegetables leaped 40.3 per cent from a year earlier.

One seasonal cause of concern is damage by a string of typhoons to the nation's farmland and the arrival of typhoon Vernon Friday paralysed air, land and sea traffic.

But core inflation — the consumer price index minus fresh food prices — actually fell to a 1.1 per cent growth year-on-year in August from 1.4 per cent in July.

The economic slump has helped push down prices of durable goods, textiles and processed food.

In a separate report, Japanese employers' National Personnel Authority, has recommended that Japanese civil servants receive wage rises of just 1.92 per cent this year, their lowest hike since getting 1.47 per cent in 1987.

The civil servants will also see their first half bonus fall for the first time in 15 years, said the agency, whose proposals are usually adopted by the government. The bonus is equivalent to about 5.3 months of the annual salary.

The bleak wage outlook for officials is due to the slowing of the Japanese economy.

One consolation for public servants is that the private sector is also suffering, seeing pay rises of only four per cent this year — the weakest increase since the 1987 recession which was inspired by a soaring yen.

Break loose from the mark, say Belgian economists

BRUSSELS (AFP) — A group of 14 Belgian economists have urged their government to suspend the link between the Belgian franc and the German mark, in order to pull out of economic recession.

The economists, all at the Flemish Catholic University of Louvain (CUL), said in an open statement to the government that low-inflation Belgium did not share Germany's preoccupation with rising prices.

"Unconditional alignment with German monetary policy presents much bigger dangers of deflationary pressures, economic slowdown and higher unemployment," the statement said, adding that the time had come to cut interest rates.

But the National Bank of Belgium said in reaction that it was sticking to its "strict orthodox monetary policy".

It said in a statement that any depreciation of the franc depended on labour market reforms and the scrapping of automatic wage indexation — which were not yet in sight.

And the central bank repeated an argument used recently by French and Belgian officials — that currency depreciation would result in a loss of confidence in the franc that could mean higher long-term interest rates.

But the CUL economists maintained that the decision to link the franc to the mark, taken in May 1991, was no longer justified because the European Monetary System (EMS) of linked EC currencies was no longer anchored to the mark.

"By tracking the mark, the Belgian franc is behaving like an

artificially stimulated currency. This no longer corresponds to reality. We plead for a strong franc but an autonomous one," they said.

The economists urged the Belgian government, which holds the current presidency of the EC, to launch a joint initiative with France to lower interest rates.

Germany's EC partners have been complaining that they have been forced to maintain high growth-denying interest rates to match those in Germany in order to prevent politically-damaging currency devaluations.

But pressure to cut interest rates has grown this month since exchange rate bands within the EMS were relaxed on Aug. 1 because of currency turbulence, giving European currencies more room to depreciate against the mark.

China's inflation soars despite economic cooling measures

PEKING (AFP) — The cost of living in China's coastal cities is still soaring despite measures to cool the overheated economy, as an official said Friday that urban inflation hit 23.3 per cent in July.

The average for China's 35 major cities was up from 21.6 per cent in June, a State Statistical Bureau spokesman said, adding national inflation stood at about 14 per cent in July.

Prices rose a massive 35.8 per cent in the southern city of Guangzhou compared with the same month last year, while Peking and Shanghai recorded increases of 24.8 per cent and 23.4 per cent respectively, according to bureau figures.

The figures were the highest since 1989 when urban inflation of 32 per cent sparked widespread public discontent and contributed to pro-democracy demonstrations, which ended with Peking's brutal military crackdown on June 4, 1989.

The central government in early July announced measures — including credit curbs — to cool the economy, which grew 13.9

per cent in the first six months of the year.

But foreign investors in China's booming coastal cities said they were still being hit by employee demands for huge wage rises because the measures had not yet succeeded in easing inflationary pressure.

"Inflation, we notice that very badly. It goes on unabated," said Richard Dobe, general manager of U.S. venture Pfizer-China in the northeastern city of Dalian.

The government last week pledged to curb pay increases by loss-making state enterprises, which paid out 41.29 billion yuan (\$7.14 billion) in bonuses between January and June, up 38 per cent on the same period in 1992.

The government has forecast an annual inflation rate of about 13 per cent — up from 12.5 per cent in the first six months — but acknowledged this could only be achieved if money supply growth was brought under control.

Money supply grew by some 52.80 billion yuan (\$912.7 million) in the first six months of the

year and the China Daily reported Thursday some 486.3 billion yuan worth of banknotes were in circulation at the end of June.

The rise was blamed on excessive investment in new capital construction projects, which totalled 125.7 billion yuan, twice the targeted amount, in the first half of the year, according to official statistics.

The English-language daily also quoted a central People's Bank of China report as saying soaring imports between January and June brought a decline of \$520 million in China's foreign exchange reserves, which stood at \$18.8 billion at the end of June, it said.

Reserves fell because of a 23.2 per cent rise in imports, especially of raw materials, to meet the demands of rapid economic growth, the central bank said.

Exports grew only 4.4 per cent between January and June.

The China Daily said the fall in reserves would not affect China's ability to repay its foreign debt, totalling \$69.3 billion.

Heineken seeking to convince drinkers its beer is safe

AMSTERDAM (R) — Dutch brewer Heineken faces the daunting task of tracing 3.5 million bottles of beer and convincing consumers its product is still safe after finding glass splinters in some bottles.

The brewer said Thursday it would have to withdraw 17 million of its characteristic green export bottles after glass splinters were found in some during a routine quality control check. Sabotage was ruled out.

Heineken said the splinters, of various sizes, were caused by flaws in the glass used to make the export bottles and said Friday it intended to seek damages from the firm that made the glass.

Shares in the company, the world's second-largest brewer after U.S. firm Anheuser-Busch, opened 1.9 per cent or 3.4 guilders lower at 181.30 guilders but regained ground to stand down 2.10 guilders at midday in Amsterdam.

Heineken beer bottles are being withdrawn from Hong Kong, Britain, Sweden, Hungary, Israel, Finland and Austria. Heineken export beer is brewed and bottled in the Netherlands and sold in more than 150 countries worldwide.

Eighty per cent of the bottles at risk have been traced but Heineken spokeswoman Anemiek Louwers said 3.5 million remain somewhere on the way from the brewer to the consumer. Only one per cent of the recalled bottles could contain splinters, most of which are invisible to the naked eye, Heineken said.

Small glass chips from a rim

inside the neck of the bottle could drop into the beer when bottles are opened or transported, Heineken said.

Small splinters are unlikely to cause any injury, said a spokesman for the Academisch Medisch Centrum Hospital in Amsterdam, but larger ones could perforate the intestine.

"The splinters are difficult to detect in the bottles... but we don't want to take any risks at all of injury," Mr. Louwers said. "All that matters is getting the bottles back."

Most investment analysts agreed the scare would blow over quickly. "Sentiment (on Heineken) will be negative in the next couple of weeks but in two months everybody will forget about it and pick up the shares in line with the market," a dealer said.

The company has not said how much the withdrawal will cost, or whether its insurance will cover it completely but analysts expect second-half earnings to be affected.

"I do think it will have an effect on earnings but at this stage I can't say how much. It is still unclear whether the company has insurance for these things," said Hans Smits, analyst at CLN Oyens.

He said he thought Heineken's earnings per share could be hit by 20 to 30 cents in 1993. Heineken's net earnings per share were 11.53 guilders in 1992 with total net profit at 463 million guilders (\$246 million).

However, analysts said the effect on Heineken would be less

drastic than a similar case in 1990 when French mineral water bottler Perrier had to withdraw 160 million bottles from the U.S. market after finding benzene in some products. It lost 40 per cent of its total sales between 1989 and 1991.

They pointed to the limited impact on Dutch food group Nutricia of withdrawing all its powdered baby food products in the United States because of possible Salmonella contamination. Nutricia's shares quickly recovered.

Distributors in Sweden, Finland and Israel gave no figures for how many bottles were being withdrawn from each market.

hand to mouth," the secretary-general said in a speech before the General Assembly's 5th committee on financial matters. "There is nothing new about that. But today the situation is unprecedented and intolerable."

Unless substantial payments are made within 30 days, he said, the United Nations will be unable to undertake any new financial commitments and existing operations will be in jeopardy.

Dr. Boutros-Ghali said the situation has gone "from bad to worse" because virtually all 188 U.N. members are in arrears in payments for the regular budget and peacekeeping operations.

The organisation has monthly expenditures of \$310 million, and reserves are totally depleted.

"As of today," he said, "cash in hand will cover requirements only through the first week of September, without any further payments to troop contributors."

The secretary-general said the secretariat already has instituted strict economies, and he announced "severe" but unspecified reductions in official travel and the use of consultants.

He also ordered sharp reductions in meeting hours and conference services, including simultaneous translation, verbatim and summary records, and television and audio broadcast.

For example, he said, weekday meetings of the Security Council will not have services after 6 p.m. and no meetings of the council will be held on weekends, except in emergencies.

If contributions are not paid by the end of the year, he said, these measures will continue and more drastic ones will be added.

The Cambodian issue involved minivans ordered from Japan's Mitsubishi and Toyota auto firms for use by 22,000 peacekeepers monitoring May elections in the war-torn nation.

The U.N. Office of Administration and Management said that 705 vans were ordered from Mitsubishi Corp. at a cost of \$8,800 each, or \$6.2 million. Other trucks were ordered from Toyota.

It was not known why so many vehicles were ordered, but the office said that U.N. personnel may have overestimated the extent of territory they would be

required to monitor.

Melissa Wells, undersecretary-general for administration and management, told a news conference that U.N. officials immediately asked the manufacturer to change the order when they realised their mistake, but were held to the original contract.

Dr. Boutros-Ghali said an investigation found no "improprieties" and that the supplier of the minibuses "stubbornly refused to cooperate."

After initially refusing to cancel the order, Mitsubishi agreed to buy back the vans, the office said. Storage and security costs were not known.

Of a total 850 minibuses, the peacekeepers in Cambodia used 100, 45 were sold and the rest

were used in U.N. work in other countries or put in storage, Dr. Boutros-Ghali's report said.

The United States and some other countries have threatened to withhold their dues unless the United Nations cracks down on waste, fraud and mismanagement. Responding to this pressure, Dr. Boutros-Ghali Tuesday announced the appointment of an Egyptian accountant and former U.N. auditor to investigate.

The United States pays about one-quarter of the annual budget of more than \$1 billion and pays about 30 per cent of all peacekeeping costs. As of July 15, the U.S. government owed \$517 million to the regular budget and \$308 million to peacekeeping, according to U.N. figures.

Ghali says U.N. cash will run out by Sept. 7, outlines economies

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.N. chief says the U.N. financial crisis is so severe that its cash will run out by Sept. 7, and has ordered cutbacks in travel, use of consultants and meetings.

The world body, meanwhile, acknowledged Thursday it had overestimated its need for minivans in Cambodia by eight times, a mistake U.N. documents indicate led to purchases totalling millions of dollars.

The disclosures came two days after Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali created a new post to tackle fraud, waste and mismanagement, and as the world body faces costs from an unprecedented number of peacekeeping operations.

"The organisation lives from

hand to mouth," the secretary-general said in a speech before the General Assembly's 5th committee on financial matters. "There is nothing new about that. But today the situation is unprecedented and intolerable."

Unless substantial payments are made within 30 days, he said, the United Nations will be unable to undertake any new financial commitments and existing operations will be in jeopardy.

Dr. Boutros-Ghali said the situation has gone "from bad to worse" because virtually all 188 U.N. members are in arrears in payments for the regular budget and peacekeeping operations.

The organisation has monthly expenditures of \$310 million, and reserves are totally depleted.

"As of today," he said, "cash in hand will cover requirements only through the first week of September, without any further payments to troop contributors."

The secretary-general said the secretariat already has instituted strict economies, and he announced "severe" but unspecified reductions in official travel and the use of consultants.

He also ordered sharp reductions in meeting hours and conference services, including simultaneous translation, verbatim and summary records, and television and audio broadcast.

For example, he said, weekday meetings of the Security Council will not have services after 6 p.m. and no meetings of the council will be held on weekends, except in emergencies.

If contributions are not paid by the end of the year, he said, these measures will continue and more drastic ones will be added.

The Cambodian issue involved minivans ordered from Japan's Mitsubishi and Toyota auto firms for use by 22,000 peacekeepers monitoring May elections in the war-torn nation.

The U.N. Office of Administration and Management said that 705 vans were ordered from Mitsubishi Corp. at a cost of \$8,800 each, or \$6.2 million. Other trucks were ordered from Toyota.

It was not known why so many vehicles were ordered, but the office said that U.N. personnel may have overestimated the extent of territory they would be

required to monitor.

Melissa Wells, undersecretary-general for administration and management, told a news conference that U.N. officials immediately asked the manufacturer to change the order when they realised their mistake, but were held to the original contract.

Dr. Boutros-Ghali said an investigation found no "improprieties" and that the supplier of the minibuses "stubbornly refused to cooperate."

After initially refusing to cancel the order, Mitsubishi agreed to buy back the vans, the office said. Storage and security costs were not known.

Of a total 850 minibuses, the peacekeepers in Cambodia used 100, 45 were sold and the rest

were used in U.N. work in other countries or put in storage, Dr. Boutros-Ghali's report said.

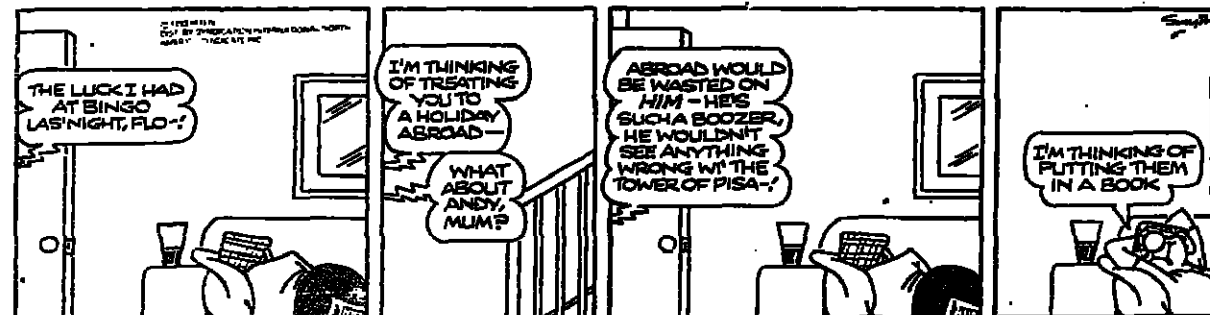
The United States and some other countries have threatened to withhold their dues unless the United Nations cracks down on waste, fraud and mismanagement. Responding to this pressure, Dr. Boutros-Ghali Tuesday announced the appointment of an Egyptian accountant and former U.N. auditor to investigate.

The United States pays about one-quarter of the annual budget of more than \$1 billion and pays about 30 per cent of all peacekeeping costs. As of July 15, the U.S. government owed \$517 million to the regular budget and \$308 million to peacekeeping, according to U.N. figures.

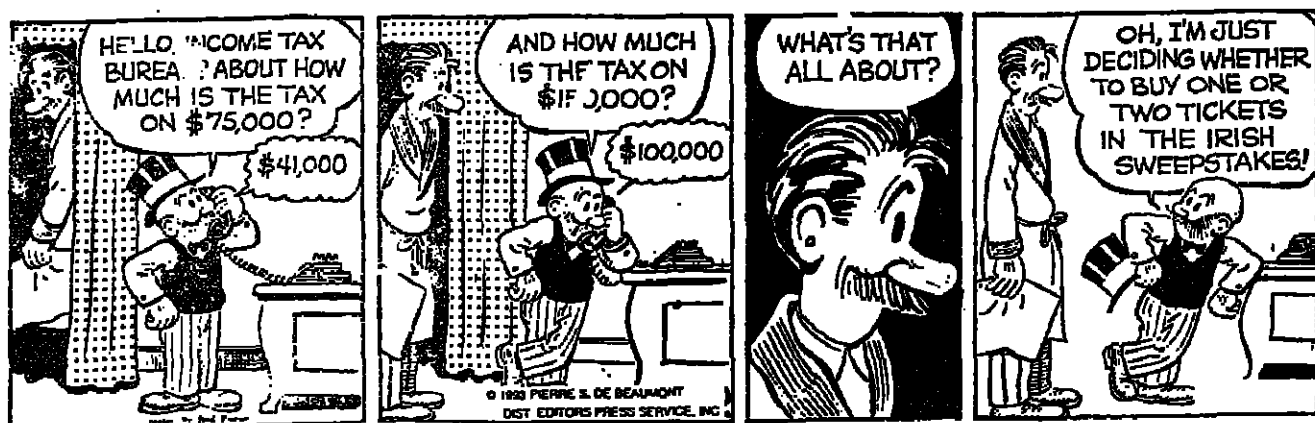
Peanuts



Andy Capp



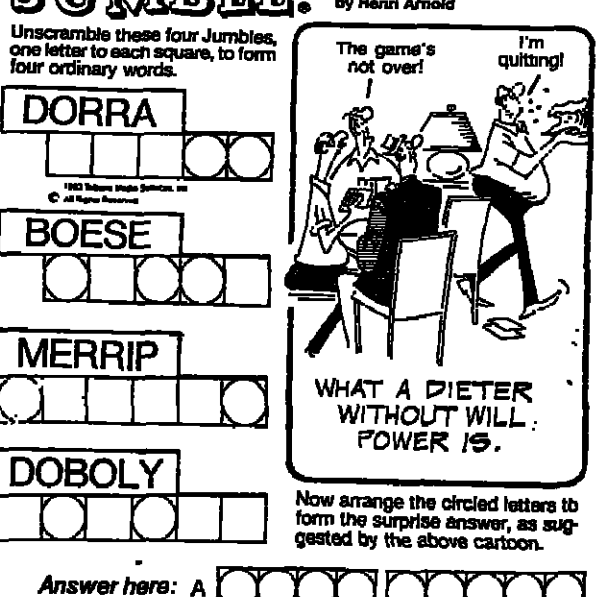
Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME



Horoscope not received

THE Daily Crossword by William Canine



Yugoslavia introduces one billion dinar note

BELGRADE (R) — The Yugoslav National Bank, racing to keep pace with hyperinflation, said Friday it was launching a one billion dinar note.

The note will be introduced Monday, only two weeks after the 500 million dinar note came into circulation.

Monthly inflation in rump Yugoslavia has passed 1,000 per cent fuelled by the government's policy of freely printing money to pay for its spending in the face of international sanctions.

The government says it plans to knock six zeroes from the currency in September to help citizens-confused by the growing array of digits on their notes.

One German mark (0.6) bought about 200 million dinars on the black market in Belgrade Friday morning. The exchange rate can as much as double overnight.

Poland devalues zloty to boost exports

WARSAW (R) — Poland's central bank devalued the zloty by about eight per cent against a basket of currencies and by seven per cent against the dollar Friday to try to increase exports and reduce a \$1.1 billion trade deficit.

"We want to reverse the trend in Polish trade and not to worsen the attractiveness of Polish goods, because the economic recovery and increased demand on the Polish market coincide with recession abroad," Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz, president of the National Bank of Poland (NBP), told Reuters.

The NBP also reduced the pace of a crawling peg mechanism under which the zloty is gradually devalued to 1.6 per cent a month from 1.8 per cent.

It said in a statement the de-

valuation was also intended to boost its foreign currency reserves, which have dwindled to about \$3.5 billion from \$4.5 billion at the start of this year.

Poland has begun to emerge from recession this year through market reforms launched after communist rule ended in 1989. A decline in industrial production has been halted, gross domestic product is forecast to rise by four per cent this year and inflation is expected to be around 35 per cent at the end of 1993 after more than 60 per cent in 1991.

But a growing trade deficit this year, after what the NBP said was a \$512 million surplus in 1992, provoked weeks of speculation that the central bank would be forced to make its first one-off devaluation of the zloty since February 1992.

Study: Arab countries lack right climate for investment

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab states lack the right climate for investment because of poor security and incentives as well as small markets, a Gulf study has said.

Although most Arab states have sought to improve investment laws as part of economic reforms, capital outflow continued and domestic investments remained a fraction of the overseas Arab funds.

The study, published in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) oil ministry's magazine Oil and Industry News, estimated Arab assets abroad at \$800 billion, of which 80 per cent are based in industrial states.

Around \$500 billion belong to the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and 61 per cent of the total assets is in liquidity in the form of bank deposits and re-

serves with the International Monetary Fund.

The rest are in stocks, equities and real estate.

Arab investments in the region do not exceed \$20 billion despite repeated calls "for repatriating part of the overseas funds and the signing of several regional investment and free trade cooperation agreements."

"There are several discouraging factors in investment in the Arab region," the study said. "The most important factors are the absence of a right investment climate that will persuade investors to place their funds in the local market and the lack of incentives and adequate tax exemptions."

The study said "most Arab states also lack a proper infrastructure to serve development

and productive projects while security for investment has remained weak and regional stock markets are still relatively small."

It was the latest in a series of regional studies to outline obstacles for domestic investment, which has become vital for development in non-oil Arab states as aid from the wealthy Gulf has plunged because of falling oil prices.

GCC states — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE — extended more than \$70 billion in aid to other Arab League nations in the past 20 years.

But the bulk of the funds were given before 1985. In the past few years, such aid did not exceed \$10 billion.

With the decline in aid and investment inflow, which did not

exceed four per cent of the total aid, Arabs were forced to turn abroad for funds. This pushed up their debt to more than \$150 billion at the end of 1991.

The Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund, spearheading a reform drive in the region, has repeatedly asked its members to press ahead with reforms to attract capital and lessen reliance on foreign aid.

"Economic reforms are not enough in the Arab World. We need political reforms," said Yusuf Khalifa, an economics professor at the Emirates University. "Investors need stability not only economic incentives."

The Arab region has been rocked by political rifts for decades, blocking the implementation of economic cooperation accords and hampering the free movement of citizens and capital.

UAE seeks Japan help to upgrade desalination plants

ABU DHABI (AFP) — A Japanese technical delegation is in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to upgrade its water desalination plants and diplomats said plans include converting them to solar energy.

The delegation from the Japan International Cooperation Agency discussed the plans with officials of the Abu Dhabi Water and Electricity Department and would visit several desalination

plants in the emirates.

"The delegation is here to conduct studies on the country's desalination plants at the request of the UAE in order to implement projects to reduce operational costs," said a Japanese diplomat, who requested anonymity.

"One of the choices is to convert them so they will operate on solar energy."

The project, if implemented, will make the UAE the first Arab

country to use solar energy in desalination facilities and could open the way for other oil-rich Gulf states to seek such Japanese technology.

Desalination plants are the main source of electricity and drinking water for the UAE and other members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), providing them with more than 70 per cent of their water require-

ments.

Japan is the main importer of GCC oil, receiving from the region nearly 60 per cent of its crude needed for four million barrels per day. It is also their top trade partner, with the exchange peaking at \$35 billion in 1992.

Japanese embassy officials said this year the UAE had also asked their country to build underground water dams, a technique developed by Japan and adopted in a few countries.

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET
DAILY MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (22/08/1993 - 23/08/1993)
WEEKLY REPORT

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	415,415	167.000	168.000	172.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	242,134	3.500	3.500	3.500
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	450	37.500	37.500	37.500
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	40,255	4.250	4.250	4.250
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	99,411	2.000	2.000	2.000
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	197,004	4.000	4.000	4.000
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	140,003	5.150	5.150	5.150
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	244,000	2.500	2.500	2.500
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	170,959	0.910	0.910	0.910
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	48,434	0.950	0.950	0.950
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	12,454	0.800	0.800	0.800
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	44,221	0.800	0.800	0.800
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	27,225	0.800	0.800	0.800
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	10,004	0.800	0.800	0.800
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	1,140,004	1.000	1.000	1.000
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	1,492	0.750	0.750	0.750
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	19,003	2.500	2.500	2.500
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	20,210	2.500	2.500	2.500
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	10,413	2.500	2.500	2.500
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	30,424	1.000	1.000	1.000
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	207,204	0.750	0.750	0.750
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	7,000	3.500	3.500	3.500
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	19,254	2.000	2.000	2.000
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	7,000	0.800	0.800	0.800
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	159,445	2.000	2.000	2.000
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	8,433	1.500	1.500	1.500
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	11,979	1.500	1.500	1.500
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	47,131	0.750	0.750	0.750
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	923	1.000	1.000	1.000
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	144,003	0.800	0.800	0.800
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	73,094	1.750	1.750	1.750
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	72,189	0.750	0.750	0.750
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	8,000	0.800	0.800	0.800
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	2,354	1.250	1.250	1.250
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	134,934	10.000	10.000	10.000
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	12,240	2.500	2.500	2.500
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	213,897	2.000	2.000	2.000
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	48,804	2.500	2.500	2.500
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	90,198	2.500	2.500	2.500
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	5,584	2.500	2.500	2.500
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	104,223	0.800	0.800	0.800
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	3,524	1.750	1.750	1.750
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	1,743	2.500	2.500	2.500
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	109,486	0.750	0.750	0.750
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	105,000	10.000	10.000	10.000
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	2,240,225	0.800	0.800	0.800
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	45,729	0.800	0.800	0.800
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	12,044	3.000	3.000	3.000
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	182,550	2.750	2.750	2.750
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	12,532	10.000	10.000	10.000
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	21,713	2.500	2.500	2.500
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	24,141	0.500	0.500	0.500
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	571,778	2.000	2.000	2.000
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	48,477	2.500	2.500	2.500
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	473,239	0.800	0.800	0.800
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	3,520	0.800	0.800	0.800
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	1,400	0.800	0.800	0.800
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	105,005	2.500	2.500	2.500
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	32,825	0.600	0.600	0.600
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	10,613	2.500	2.500	2.500
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	30,510	2.500	2.500	2.500
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	108,449	2.500	2.500	2.500
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	70,744	1.500	1.500	1.500
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	90,700	1.500	1.500	1.500
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	12,379	0.600	0.600	0.600
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	233,282	0.600	0.600	0.600
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	37,747	1.500	1.500	1.500
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	84,500	2.500	2.500	2.500
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	27,403	2.500	2.500	2.500
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	37,041	2.500	2.500	2.500
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	314,484	0.500	0.500	0.500
GRAND TOTAL	9,739,490			

PARALLEL MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (22/08/1993 - 23/08/1993)
WEEKLY REPORT

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	34,175	1.240	1.240	1.240
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	70,804	0.750	0.750	0.750
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	7,490	0.750	0.750	0.750
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	30,467	2.750	2.750	2.750
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	137,327	2.100	2.100	2.100
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	72,744	1.500	1.500	1.500
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	134,374	2.100	2.100	2.100
GRAND TOTAL	544,943			

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin
Date: 26.8.1993

Currency	USD/Dir	JD/Dir	Metal	USD/Dir	JD/Dir
Gold	371.65	7.35	Silver	4.73	0.127

Other Currencies Date: 26.8.1993

Currency	USD/Dir	JD/Dir	Metal	USD/Dir	JD/Dir
U.S. Dollar	0.6930	0.6950			
Sterling Pound	1.0270	1.0301			
Deutsche Mark	0.4108	0.4129			
Swiss Franc	0.4667	0.4690			
French Franc	0.1182	0.1188			
Japanese Yen	0.0054	0.0057			
Dutch Guilder	0.3557	0.3575			
Swedish Krona	0.0020	0.0024			
Italian Lira	0.0434	0.0426			
Belgian Franc	0.01942	0.01952			
Other Currencies					
Bahraini Dinar	1.8130	1.8230			
Lebanese Lira	0.0358	0.0413			
Saudi Riyal	0.1810	0.1860			
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2550	2.3200			
Qatari Riyal	0.1876	0.1893			
Egyptian Pound	2.5000	2.2150			
Omani Riyal	1.7650	1.8230			
UAE Dirham	0.1876	0.1893			
Greek Drachma	0.0210	0.0210			
Cypriot Pound	1.3380	1.3650			

London Exchange Rates

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Friday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	Canadian dollar
1.3165/75	Deutschemarks
1.6685/95	Dutch guilders
1.8755/65	Swiss francs
1.4723/33	Belgian francs
35.64/74	French francs
5.8400/00	Italian lire
1590.52/5	Japanese yen
103.90/00	Swedish crowns
8.0940/14	Norwegian crowns
7.2500/70	Danish crowns
6.8730/93	
One sterling	\$1.5065/75
One ounce of gold	\$368.50/369.00

THE PROFESSIONALS ALWAYS CHOOSE THE RELIABLE

Packing, Air Freight Forwarding, Door-to-door Services and Deliveries, Customs Clearance, Tickets and Reservations.

AMIN KAWAR & SONS
Tel: 604676 604606
P.O. Box 7808
AMMAN

CROWN INTL. EST.

Packing, shipping Forwarding, storage worldwide Removals Air, Sea and Land

TEL: 66 40 90
FAX: 89 08 52
POST: 92 64 87
AMMAN-JORDAN

Amman International Hotel

LIVE MUSIC PIANO BAR
Lafrique Rest.
Tel: 841712 / 841713

Turino
FLAT. O. TEL RESTAURANT 661293
ITALIAN CUISINE
Cocktail - Piano Bar
Opening Soon

DANZAS

INTERNATIONAL DOOR TO DOOR REMOVALS
GERMAN DRIVERS - AIR - RIDEN REMOVAL TRUCKS
YOUR REGULAR LINK TO AND FROM EUROPE
SPECIALISTS FOR DIPLOMATIC REMOVALS
IN THE NEAR EAST
FOR DETAILED INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
EASTERN SERVICES
OFFICIAL DANZAS AGENT IN JORDAN
TEL: 621 775 TLX: 23023 FAX: 655 270
PEACE BUILDING - JABAL LWEIBDEH
AMMAN - JORDAN

Only The Best

Many furnished and unfurnished villas - apartments for rent.

Abdoun Real Estate

Tel. No. 810605/810609
Fax No. 810520

STUDIO HAIG

Professional Quality in 1 Hour Service
Develop your colour film at our shop and get:-

- JUMBO photo size 30% larger
- Free enlargement 20 x 30 cm

Shmeisani - Opp. Grindlays Bank. Phone: 604042
Sweitch tel: 823891

At McGills Bar in SELECT HOTEL

Just off Wadi / Amman
We have two big surprises waiting for you

The prices The ambience

One visit will make you a steady, we believe!!

The First Class Hotel in Amman that has a Kitchenette in every room!

DAROTEL
"Satellite T.V. Reception"

Amman - Tel: 668193
P.O. Box 9403 - Fax: 602434
Telex: 23888 DAROTEL JO
Ideal Residence For Expatriates and Businessmen

Hisham International Tours

"THE RELIABLE NAME IN JORDAN"

Book now & Join our class summer trips (8) days (7) nights

- Istanbul \$800 H/B & tours
- Antalya \$ 800 H/B
- Turkish Riviera \$800 H/B
- Cyprus \$770 B/B
- All in 5 star INTL HTLS & Egypt

Specialists in Tailor-made Outgoing Tours & Hotel reservations at International & Luxury Hotels in Turkey, Cyprus & Egypt

Our first class services & moderate prices make sense for leisure & business travellers
Tel.: 698180/698181, Fax 699307

PEKING RESTAURANT

Authentic Chinese Cuisine
Elegant Atmosphere
Moderate Prices

Shmeisani
Tel: 604250
open daily

CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT

Mecca Street, Yarmouk Engineers' Housing Estate, near Kilo Supermarket

Mongolian Barbeque for Lunch Friday only
Tel: 818214

Come and taste our specialties
Open daily 12:00 - 3:3

MONTEREY, California (R) — A white-haired Sacramento landowner, who prosecutors said was a female serial killer, was found guilty Thursday of murdering three elderly lodgers so she could collect their government benefit cheques. The case, reminiscent of the classic film *Arise and Fall*, has aroused intense publicity ever since police found the badly decomposed bodies of seven lodgers buried in the yard of Dorothea Puente's Victorian boarding house in 1988. The bodies were found after police looking for a missing person dug up Ms. Puente's yard in Sacramento.

Glory dispensed, athletes compete for big money

BERLIN (AP) — In Stuttgart last week, they ran, jumped and hurled for the glory. This week in Berlin, it's for cash.

In eight of the 19 events at Friday's International Stadium Festival (ISTAF) meet, all three medalists from the World Championships will be competing. In all, 27 world champions are entered.

More than \$300,000 in appearance money helped secure the stars, deputy meet director Peter Stastny said Thursday, including women's heptathlon champ Jackie Joyner-Kersey and sprint queen Merlene Ottey after 11th-hour negotiations.

Meet organisers are getting less uncomfortable about the subject. "Track and field is, more and more, professionalising itself," Stastny said. Now, appearance money is only where the incentives begin.

Ottey, the 200-metre dash winner in Stuttgart, is one of eight athletes still in the running for all or some of 20 one-kilogramme (2.2-pound) gold bars. The bars, worth about \$250,000, are the prize for winning the same event in the golden four series of meets — Oslo, Zurich, Berlin and Brussels Sept. 3.

Ottey can still share in the jackpot having won the 100 metres at both Oslo and Zurich.

Also in the running is 1,500-metre world record-holder Noureddine Morceli, who threatened to boycott the World Championships if he didn't get appearance money.

The 23-year-old Algerian has been dominating this year's circuit and glided to victory in Stuttgart last week in a tactical race. It's not known if he was finally given an appearance fee, but like all gold medalists, he received a \$30,000 Mercedes. In Berlin, first place will be worth \$6,000 a world record \$15,000.

"I think I will try for the world record," Morceli said in an interview in which he acknowledged he was getting paid to come to Berlin but wouldn't say how much. On Friday, Morceli will again be matching strides in the mile with Olympic champion Fermin Cacho of Spain.

The heaviest appearance fee, as much as \$70,000 according to race officials, went to Britain's world sprint champion Linford Christie, who will face the only man to beat him this year — Leroy Burrell of the United States.

Because Burrell beat Christie in the Zurich, neither has a shot at the gold bars. But Burrell said he expects to see a lot of peak performances.

"I think if there's a lot on the

line — like gold bars or gold medals — people tend to run faster," he said.

Other athletes with a shot at the gold bars are Mike Powell in the long jump, fellow American Michael Johnson in the 400 metres, Germany's Werner Günther in the shot put and Heike Drechsler in the women's long jump.

Also with a chance are Maria Mutola of Mozambique in the women's 800-metre run and Trine Hattestad of Norway in the women's javelin.

Burrell is nursing a slight cold and is a bit worried about Berlin's cooler climate.

But he won't have to worry about teammate Carl Lewis, who says he has not fully recovered from a February auto accident and flew home after a disappointing fourth-place finish in 100 at Stuttgart.

Another American who won't be running is Gail Devers, who raced to two gold medals in Stuttgart — in the 100 dash and 100 hurdles.

"She's taking it easy," Stastny said. "There were negotiations (over appearance money) but in the end it was not a matter of money." Meet director Rudi Thiell said Thursday that Devers had decided to end her outdoor season.

Lucky draw for Courier at U.S. Open

NEW YORK (Agencies) — The luck of the draw was with world number one Jim Courier Thursday.

The draw for the U.S. Open tennis championships was held Thursday and the ceremony left the top seed in the easier half of the men's competition with a smooth road to the quarter-finals, save for a potentially dangerous third-round bump.

Courier, who reached the final of all three Grand Slams this year, winning the Australian Open, drew 116th-ranked Spaniard Marcos Aurelio Gorria as his first-round opponent for the Open, which begins Monday.

The American, who regained the top ranking this week after winning the U.S. Open crown in Indianapolis, will face a qualifier in the second round before possibly being tested by 28th-ranked compatriot Malvay Washington in the third.

Courier is slotted to face 15th-seeded Frenchman Cedric Pioline in the round of 16, unless former champion Mats Wilander, a wildcard entry attempting a comeback, manages to get that far. Neither should pose a threat.

His likely quarter-final opponent will be either 10th-seeded Dutchman Richard Krajicek or eighth seed Andrei Medvedev of Ukraine.

In sharp contrast, second-seeded Wimbledon champion Pete Sampras will almost surely have 16th-seed Andre Agassi awaiting him in the round of 16.

None of the other top contenders will come face to face so early.

Sampras, last year's runner-up, opens against 56th-ranked Frenchman Fabrice Santoro, but found himself in the half of the draw stacked with Agassi, the always dangerous Michael Chang, defending champion Stefan Edberg and former Wimbledon winner Michael Stich of Germany.

The third-seeded Edberg begins his campaign for a third consecutive U.S. Open crown against 96th-ranked Olivier Delatre of France and faces a potential quarter-final match with sixth seed Stich.

Fourth seed Boris Becker, the 1989 winner, has a fourth round date with struggling three-time champion Ivan Lendl.

Huge-serving Croatian Goran Ivanisevic, the 11th seed, appears to be the biggest obstacle in the way of a semifinal showdown between Becker and Courier.

Fifth-seeded French Open champion Sergi Bruguera is in the same quarter as Becker and Ivanisevic, but with his lack of hard-court expertise, he could well fall to fellow Spaniard Javier Sanchez in the first round.

Women's top seed Steffi Graf, the heavy favourite with Monica Seles still out of action, drew American Robin White as her first round opponent, while second seed and 1992 runner-up Arantxa Sanchez Vicario opens against Florencia Labatt of Argentina.

If form holds the most compelling women's quarter-finals pit Graf against fifth seed Gabriela Sabatini in a rematch of the 1988 and 1990 finals and 36-year-old four-time winner Martina Navratilova against seventh seed Jennifer Capriati, looking for her first Grand Slam title at 17.

Sanchez, in the same half of the draw as Capriati and Navratilova, is slotted to meet sixth-seeded American Mary Joe Fernandez in the quarters.

Wimbledon runner-up Jana Novotna and fourth-seeded Spaniard Conchita Martinez are potential quarter-final opponents in Graf's half of the draw.

Lendl, Tausiat advance

In Schenectady, New York, top seeds Ivan Lendl and Nathalie Tauziat advanced to the quarter-finals of the \$350,000

OTB International Open tennis tournament with second-round victories Thursday.

Lendl beat Joren Renzenbrink of Germany 6-3, 6-3 while the Frenchwoman defeated Shi-Ting Wang of Taiwan 1-6, 6-4, 6-2.

In Friday's quarter-finals, Lendl will face Tomas Enqvist of Sweden, who beat Germany's Bernd Karbacher in a two hour, 58 minute battle in boiling heat and humidity.

Sixth seed Carlos Costa of Spain beat Dutchman Paul Haarhuis 6-2, 7-5 in another men's second-round match. Costa will next face Australian Richard Fromberg, who beat Danish qualifier Kenneth Carlsen 7-5, 6-3.

On the women's side, Ukrainian Natalia Medvedeva upset second seed Sabine Hack of Germany 4-6, 6-1, 6-2 while third seed Judith Wiesner of Austria easily defeated Emanuela Zardo of Switzerland 6-1, 6-1.

Medvedeva will face up-and-coming 18-year-old Swede Asa Carlsson Friday.

Ivanisevic routs Steeb

In Commack, N.Y., Goran Ivanisevic, undeterred by wilting heat and humidity, used a powerful serve Thursday to rout Car-

Ewe Steeb 6-2, 6-1 and reach the quarterfinals of the \$300,000 Hamlet Cup.

With a court-side thermometer said to register a reading of 129 degrees (53.9 C), Ivanisevic played his "best tennis in a month" in advancing to the quarters with Marc Rosset of Switzerland and Luis Mattar of Brazil.

Rosset, last year's Olympic gold medalist, had 10 aces in beating Arnaud Boetsch of France 4-6, 6-4, 6-2. Mattar downed Andrei Chesnokov of Russia 6-4, 6-4.

"The weather had no effect on me," said Rosset, who was playing Boetsch for the first time on the tour. "I don't tire in heat. The warmer it is, the better it is for me. I find I play slower and concentrate more in hot weather."

In a night match, No. 4 seed Michael Stich played Cedric Pioline.

Ivanisevic, the No. 7 seed, whipped 13 aces past Steeb. He broke the German in the fourth and eighth games of the first set and rushed ahead 5-0 in the second before winning in 59 minutes.

"I'm playing much better than a month ago because I'm serving much better, especially when I need to," Ivanisevic said.

World Cup qualifiers

Bolivians have chance to silence detractors

Argentina, Paraguay clash Sunday

RECIFE, Brazil (R) — Bolivia, the sensation of the South American World Cup qualifiers, have a golden chance to silence their detractors for good Sunday.

The formerly unheralded side, who play Brazil away, lead South America Group B with a perfect record of five wins in five games and 20 goals scored.

The quality of their soccer has been as impressive as their statistical record and they have scored some breathtaking goals in their games which have included wins over Brazil and Uruguay.

Yet critics are still asking: Are they really any good?

Detractors say Bolivia owe their performance purely to the advantage of playing at altitude in La Paz.

The team, which has struck fear into the likes of Brazil and Uruguay in their own stadium 3,700 metres above sea level, will be transformed into a meek, harmless outfit when they come down to play at sea level, they say.

Four of Bolivia's games have been in La Paz and their only away match, a 7-1 win over Venezuela, was against a team which had not won a game since 1989.

Sunday should provide the answer to a question which is confounding everyone in South American soccer.

The Brazilians, who suffered their first-ever defeat in a World Cup qualifier in La Paz, have been among Bolivia's doubters and are promising revenge.

"Their principle weapon is the altitude," said Brazil midfielder Mauro Silva. "We suffered a lot of problems in La Paz and Sunday we're not going to let them breathe."

But Bolivia's Spanish coach Xavier Ascaragorta was defiant. "We will show the world that our results are the fruits of a lot of work," he said.

Bolivia are four points ahead of second-placed Brazil, who desperately need a win. The top two teams in the five-team group qualify for the World Cup finals in the United States.

Brazil may be without captain Rai, who, in any case, has been badly off form. Palhinha will replace Rai, who has complained of pains in his leg, if the Paris St. Germain player does not recover.

Bolivia are at full strength with midfielder Julio Cesar Baldivieso returning after a one-match suspension.

Teams (probable):

Brazil — Taffarel, Jorginho, Ricardo Rocha, Ricardo Gomes, Branco, Mauro Silva, Dunga, Rai, Zinho, Bebeto, Muller.

Bolivia: Carlos Trucco, Miguel Rimba, Marco Sandy, Gustavo Quinteros, Luis Cristaldo, Milton

Melgar, Carlos Borja, Marco Etcheverry, Julio Cesar Baldivieso, Erwin Sanchez, William Ramallo.

In Buenos Aires, Argentina face Paraguay in a World Cup qualifier Sunday but the long-awaited renewal of the battle between the two team captains will not take place.

Paraguayan captain and striker Roberto Cabanas is suspended from the South America Group A match after receiving his second yellow card in last week's 1-1 draw with Colombia.

That means he will not be able to continue his feud with Argentine captain and central defender Oscar Ruggeri.

Sunday's match is the return of an explosive clash in Asuncion which saw the rugged Argentine skipper sent off for a foul on Cabanas just before halftime after nearly 45 minutes of non-stop niggling between the two.

The pair followed up their battle on the pitch with a slanging match in the press and Ruggeri appeared to be relishing the prospect of renewing the battle on Sunday.

"When Cabanas comes to the monumental stadium (in Buenos Aires) he is going to get a little surprise," Ruggeri had warned ominously.

But this week Ruggeri insisted: "I have been looking for revenge."

The first match, which Argentina won 3-1, saw three other players sent off, plus Argentine coach Alfio Basile.

Paraguay's chances of finishing in the top two of the group faded after they dropped a point at home to Colombia.

They go to Buenos Aires in search of an improbable win to keep alive their hopes of reaching the 1994 finals.

Their problems increased this week when goalkeeper and penalty-taker Jose Luis Chilavert, furious at jeers from the Paraguayan crowd against Colombia, announced his intention of abandoning the national team.

Teams (probable):

Argentina — Sergio Goycochea, Fabian Basualdo, Jorge Borelli, Oscar Ruggeri, Fernando Caceres, Gustavo Zapata, Diego Simeone, Fernando Redondo, Nestor Gorosito, Ramon Medina Bello, Gabriel Batistuta.

Paraguay — Celso Guerrero, Andres Duarte, Catalino Rivarola, Celso Ayala, Silvio Suarez, Estanislao Struway, Carlos Gamarra, Roberto Acuna, Gabriel Gonzalez, Alfredo Mendoza, Luiz Alberto Mozonzo.

Township kids

mingle with NBA giants

SOWETO (AP) — Some wore tank tops and sneakers, while others scrambled across the basketball court in long pants and street shoes.

They dribbled the ball off their feet, off their heads, off any part of the body that got in the way as they desperately raced back and forth.

In the middle, three giants towered over the controlled mayhem, barking instructions and leaping to help out a particularly needy player.

For the 200 or so teen-agers, most of them from this sprawling black township, it was a learning session — big time — from past and present National Basketball Association players under a programme designed to teach the sport and the game of life.

Bob McAdoo and Alex English, two of the league's all-time greats, along with Zairean-born Dikembe Mutombo of the Denver Nuggets, stressed ball-handling, hard work and dedication in the one-day seminar at a Soweto Gymnasium.

The message appeared to get through.

"I'm learning that to be a champion, it takes hard work," said Khotsi Nkete, 17, who plays in a township basketball programme. "It's very important to me. It takes me off the streets."

That's music to the ears of NBA commissioner David Stern, who watched from the sideline on his first-ever visit to Africa.

"We're really here just to encourage the growth of the sport and the messages that come with it," Stern said of the NBA-financed tour.

It is part of a programme called Teamwork-South Africa developed at Northeastern University in the United States with the help of the NBA and South Africa's National Olympics Committee. The goal is to use sports to improve racial understanding and give kids an alternative to street life.

That has forced Fabio Capello to reshuffle his lineup with French striker Jean Pierre Papin, Italian forward Marco Simone, Croat Zvonimir Boban, Dane Brian Laudrup, Romanian forward Florin Raducioiu and Montenegrin Dejan Savicevic.

A reshuffled lineup is expected to be a hindrance to an Italian "three-peat" but not as much as history. Only five teams have won three consecutive titles and none since Torino won five from 1934-1938. The league didn't play in 1944 and 1945.

In other games Sunday, Cagliari is in Bergamo to face Atalanta. AS Roma travels to Genoa, promoted Reggiana plays at Internazionale, Cremonese faces Juventus in Turin, Sampdoria goes to play Napoli, Torino is at

AC Milan starts bid for rare 3rd consecutive title

MILAN (AP) — AC Milan wants a rare third straight Italian League crown. But for the first time in six years, it will begin the season without its Dutch trio.

The Italian season kicks off Sunday, a week earlier than usual and the most austere in years following an economic recession that has reduced the purchases of foreign stars.

The August start is so the league can complete the 34-round scheduled for the 18-team league well before the 1994 World Cup finals in the United States.

Although the games will begin early, it won't be as early as the league would like. All matches will kick off 30 minutes late in the opening round — at 4:30 p.m. (1430 GMT) — because of a players association protest over layoffs of several of their colleagues in the third division.

Milan, which hopes to remain competitive in the Champions Cup, Italian Cup and Italian League, will debut at newly promoted Lecce.

Having transferred Ruud Gullit to Sampdoria and Frank Rijkaard to Ajax of Amsterdam, the red and black have retained only Marco Van Basten of their once-formidable Dutch front. But Van Basten is still recovering from ankle surgery while Italian forward Gian Luigi Lentini and newly acquired defender Christian Panucci have joined him on the injured list.

That has forced Fabio Capello to reshuffle his lineup with French striker Jean Pierre Papin, Italian forward Marco Simone, Croat Zvonimir Boban, Dane Brian Laudrup, Romanian forward Florin Raducioiu and Montenegrin Dejan Savicevic.

A reshuffled lineup is expected to be a hindrance to an Italian "three-peat" but not as much as history. Only five teams have won three consecutive titles and none since Torino won five from 1934-1938. The league didn't play in 1944 and 1945.

In other games Sunday, Cagliari is in Bergamo to face Atalanta. AS Roma travels to Genoa, promoted Reggiana plays at Internazionale, Cremonese faces Juventus in Turin, Sampdoria goes to play Napoli, Torino is at

promoted Piacenza, Parma faces Udinese, and Foggia goes to Rome to play Lazio.

Milan, which dominated last season despite a second-half slump, is expected to face tougher challenges this year from cross-town rival Internazionale and European Cup Winners Cup champion Parma.

★ **Atalanta vs. Cagliari**

Atalanta will begin without knee injured Brazilian midfielder Alemão but will have newly acquired Frenchman Frank Sauze in his place. Similarly, Cagliari will be without Luis Herrera, an assignment with the Uruguayan national team, and suspended Brazilian forward Luis Oliveira. Panamanian forward Dely Valdes will have to compensate for Oliveira's loss.

★ **Genoa vs. Roma**

Dutch forward Marciano Vink and Czech striker Tomas Skuhravy and are questionable for Genoa with injuries. Roma begins the season without Claudio Caniggia, serving his 13-month suspension for cocaine, and injured Brazilian defender Aldair.

★ **Inter vs. Reggiana**

Dutchmen Dennis Bergkamp and Wim Jonk make their debut in the Italian league with Inter. The Milan club is without Ruben Sosa, with Herrera with the Uruguayan national team, and suspended Italian international Nicola Bertini. Reggiana, one of the four teams which moved up from the second division this year, starts its new Swedish forward Johnny Ekstrom.

★ **Juventus vs. Cremonese**

Juventus is counting on strik-

er Gianluca Vialli, who revived his tarnished scoring skills in pre-season matches. Julio Cesar re-joining the team after a summer which saw him leave the Brazilian national team midway through the U.S. Cup.

★ **Lazio vs. Foggia**

League-leading scorer Giuseppe Signori is questionable for Lazio due to an ankle injury, and Fabio Gascoigne, who balked at reporters assertions he reported to camp overweight, is likely to play a full 90 minutes after an encouraging exhibition against Inter.

★ **Napoli vs. Sampdoria**

Napoli will share the problem of Inter and Cagliari, having to do without its Uruguayan forward Daniel Fonseca. Ruud Gullit will join with his new teammates, teaming in front with Robert Mancini, Attilio Lombardo, David Platt and Vladimir Jugovic.

★ **Piacenza vs. Torino**

Piacenza brings something to the first division not seen in a while: All-Italian starting 11. "I hope we can do without foreigners. Our goal is to avoid relegation," coach Luigi Cagni said.

Torino is the worst off in the Uruguayan department, having to play without two starters — Carlos Aguilera and Enzo Francescoli.

★ **Udinese vs. Parma**

Colombian forward Faustino Asprilla is expected to return from Latin America by the weekend but is not expected to start for Parma, whose has added Gianfranco Zola and Massimo Crippa.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH
©1992 Tribune Media Services Inc.

CAUGHT IN THE END

North-South vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ A 10 7 5
♥ K J 6 4
♦ A J
♣ 8 5 2

EAST
♠ 9 8
♥ Q 10 8 7
♦ K Q 10 7 5 4 3 2
♣ A 10 6

SOUTH
♠ K J 8 6 4 2
♥ A 3 2
♦ 9 8
♣ K 7 3

The bidding:
West North East South
1 ♠ 2 ♠ 2 ♣ 4 ♠
Pass Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

You need to do nothing more than pay heed to the auction to bring home this four-spade game. With "almost" every card marked, careful preparation is sure to deliver the contract.

With the equivalent of an opening bid facing a takeout double and a six-card major, there's no need to pussyfoot around. You know where you want to play the hand, and the surest way to get there is via the direct route.

After the opening lead of the king of diamonds, you are in danger of losing three club tricks and a heart — West must hold the ace of clubs to justify an opening bid. Since you know leading a club to the king is doomed to failure, you must find some other line.

The heart finesse is tempting, but if it loses there is no doubt East will return a club to defeat you. An end-play offers much better prospects.

Win the ace of diamonds and draw trumps. To complete the end-play, you must reach a position where, should West have some heart length, the suit can't be continued safely by that defender. So cash the ace and king of hearts and, when the queen doesn't drop, abandon that suit and instead lead the jack of diamonds, discarding a heart from hand. Saddled with the lead, West is well and truly trapped.

If West exits with a club, you lose, at most, two club tricks and a diamond. If West leads the queen of hearts, ruff and take a club discard on the jack of hearts, using a trump as the entry. If West returns a low heart, go up with the jack. Either that wins and you discard a club, or East covers and you ruff, setting-up a long heart in dummy for a club discard. Simple enough!

FURNISHED VILLA IN TLA' AL ALI FOR RENT

Consists of 3 bedrooms, 3 verandas, 3 bathrooms, salon, dining room, kitchen, beautiful garden planted with fruit trees, and central heating, with telephone. Suitable for diplomats.

For more information, please call tel. 828979

One Bedroom Furnished Apartment For Rent

Well-furnished studio with a nice view. The building is well maintained with an elevator and parking.

Suwayfa, American Embassy Street, Iskan Beitona, building No. 4, floor No. 3, Apartment 4.

FOR RENT

A newly-built villa, with unique architectural design, consisting of three bedrooms, spacious salons, large kitchen, well-kept garden.

Location: Abdoun

Please call tel. 602161

Secretary Required

We are looking for a secretary, having a good command of the English language, also typing and good with computer filing.

For more info. call: 699343

DELUXE FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT

Located at a beautiful location in Sweifiyeh. Consists of (3 bedrooms, 2 salons, dining, living room, 3 bathrooms, American kitchen).

New furniture, first time usage.

Interested call: 617888

How wedding gifts are changing

See for yourself at:

★ **DA JEWELLERS ANI**

Amra Hotel - Amman.

FOR RENT AND SALE In Abdoun

Two bedroom, garden apartment with separate heating, water, electricity and telephone. Fully furnished, in Abdoun.

For rent interested, please call tel. 822067.

Manager's desk and chair, equipment and furniture, photocopy machine in a very good condition for sale.

Toyota Cressida, duty paid, 1985, full options, in an excellent condition for sale.

Please call 822067

NEW DELUXE VILLA FOR RENT

306 M². Consisting of 4 bedrooms, spacious salon, living and dining rooms, modern kitchen, 4 bathrooms and garden.

Location: Dir Ghibar

Call: Walid, tel. 810295

FOR RENT MODERN FURNISHED APARTMENTS

★ Studio of one bedroom, K & B.
★ One bedroom, living room, K & B.
★ Two bedrooms, living-dining room, K & B.
★ Three bedrooms, two living rooms, dining room K & two baths.

Central heating and telephones.

Location: Jabal Amman bet. 3rd & 4th Circles.

Shmeisani near Birds Garden.

Owner's telephone: 567862-693443

TO DAY

Cinema Tel.: 677420

CONCORD

Last Action Hero

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

America Shikabika

Arabic

Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:15, 10:15

Cinema Tel.: 699238

PLAZA

Adel Imam in

Wad Sayyed Al Shaghal

play (Arabic)

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

Cinema Tel.: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

Franky and Johnny

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

On Thursday and Friday special show for children at 11 a.m. a festival of cartoons.

Cinema Tel.: 675371

Nabil Al Mashhal Theatre

presents a play entitled:

Al Iim Nuron

A popular political comedy

Actors: Abeer Issa, Daoud Jalajel, Hassan Al Shaer, Fuad Shomali

In addition to other comedians

Every night at 8:15

Tickets are sold all day

Nabil & Hisham's Tel.: 625155

AHLAN THEATRE

Returns to you Thursday Aug. 26 in the play:

Arab Summit Conference

China threatens to quit missile pact

PEKING (Agencies) — China threw into doubt Friday U.S.-led efforts to control sales of long-range missiles, threatening to withdraw its support for such restrictions in response to newly imposed U.S. trade sanctions.

Vice Foreign Minister Liu Huaqing called in U.S. Ambassador to China Stapleton Roy to convey Peking's decision concerning the missile technology control regime (MTCR) and to lodge a strong protest, over Washington's decision to impose sanctions, the official Xinhua news agency said.

"The Chinese government has been left with no alternatives but to reconsider its commitment to the MTCR," Mr. Liu said. "The U.S. government shall be held fully responsible for all the consequences arising from."

Washington announced the sanctions Wednesday, accusing China of violating the MTCR by selling technology for its M-11 missiles to Pakistan. Both Peking and Islamabad have repeatedly rejected the allegation.

In a scathing attack, Mr. Liu warned the U.S. move "puts Sino-U.S. relations in serious jeopardy."

"This naked hegemonistic act has brutally violated the basic norms governing international relations," he said. "This is most unreasonable and totally unacceptable to the Chinese side."

China first agreed to abide by the MTCR guidelines and parameters in February 1992, but only after Washington agreed to remove sanctions nearly identical to the ones it imposed Wednesday.

If Peking went ahead with the threat to withdraw support for the MTCR, it would be a major blow for international effort to limit missile proliferation, Western diplomats said. U.S. President Bill Clinton has made an end to sales of long-range missiles one of his administration's top priorities.

But the diplomats expressed some scepticism over Peking's threat, pointing out that it would not only be damaging to its own security interests, but also risk additional retaliation from Washington at a time when China's preferential trade status is at

risk of being revoked.

"The Chinese often have a bark much bigger than their bite," one said.

The renewed sanctions barred Chinese institutions, notably the Defence Ministry and Space Research Programme, from buying satellites and satellite technology, including avionics, flight control systems and some computer and software equipment.

But the two-year ban would only affect new sales, not anything for which export licenses have been granted. It will affect an estimated \$400 million to \$500 million in U.S. exports annually.

Ironically, a major victim of the ban is Los Angeles-based Hughes Aircraft Co., which has discussed selling 10 satellites to China and was supposed to put two into orbit in the next two years.

A loophole for an all-out escalation of tension existed, observers said, noting that like predecessor George Bush, Mr. Clinton could sign a special waiver that would allow the sales and launches to go ahead.

The M-11 missiles have a range of 480 kilometres and can be equipped with nuclear warheads. The MTCR bars sales of missiles with a range of more than 300 kilometres or a payload of more than 500 kilograms.

The Chinese vice minister reiterated Peking's claim that it had abided by the MTCR guidelines, arguing that the "large body of evidence" gathered by U.S. intelligence was inaccurate.

"The Chinese government has all along adopted a positive and serious approach towards preventing proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems," Mr. Liu said.

Peking had "done nothing in contradiction" with the MTCR, he added.

On the other hand, he accused the United States of having "poured large amounts of advanced weapons into the region sensitive to China, threatening its security."

The U.S. intelligence community concluded that MTCR guidelines had been violated by China, but only after months of debate.

Bosnian parties start debate on partition

PALE. Bosnia-Herzegovina (AFP) — Representatives of Bosnia's three warring parties convened Friday in their respective strongholds to debate a proposed carve-up of the war-torn republic as pockets of opposition to the plan emerged on all sides.

Deputies of the self-proclaimed Bosnian Serb parliament called in Pale to respond to the plan argued Friday in closed session over whether the Serbs should hand over battle-won territories and attach conditions to their acceptance.

Meanwhile Bosnian Croat civilian and military leaders gathered in their southern Bosnian stronghold of Grude to study the plan, which the self-proclaimed Bosnian Croat parliament will vote on Saturday after it was rejected by a large part of the population and local authorities.

And in Sarajevo, where members of the mainly-Muslim Bosnian parliament gathered, Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic demanded guarantees that the plan be monitored by the U.N. and hinted the Bosnians would only accept if international mediators agreed to certain amendments.

Under the proposed ethnic partition drafted at all-party peace talks in Geneva, the Croats who made up about 17 per cent of

Bosnia's pre-war population would gain control of just under 20 per cent of the territory.

The Muslim-led Bosnians, who made up 44 per cent of the population would get 30 per cent of the land, and the Serbs just over 50 per cent.

The three parties have until Monday to consult their respective assemblies on the question and return to Geneva to present their responses to Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg, the international mediators on the conflict.

Dissent in Washington

There are fears that U.S. diplomacy is losing credibility over the government's handling of the Bosnia crisis, which has led to the recent resignation of State Department officials in protest.

Three State Department officials involved with the situation in Former Yugoslavia resigned in August to protest what they say is a deliberate lack of effort on the part of the U.S. government to end the killing of Bosnian Muslims by Bosnian Serb forces.

In separate interview with AFP, they also said they feared that the U.S. government's reluctance to act could endanger Washington's prestige and influence in the world.

Togo regime, rivals spar over 15 deaths

LOME (Agencies) — Togo's government and the main opposition, which boycotted this week's presidential elections, accused each other on Friday of killing 15 militants in a general village.

The government said the militants who died in the village of Agbandi, 60 kilometres south of the central town of Sokode, had been poisoned with food delivered to them in prison by members of the opposition Committee for Renewal (CAR).

But the opposition blamed security forces and CAR leader Yawovi Agboyibo said the accusations were part of a plot by strongarm President Gnassingbe Eyadema and Prime Minister Joseph Kokou Koffigoh to incriminate him.

"These are reprisals for the boycott of the election," Mr. Agboyibo said. "How can you possibly say people from CAR killed their own supporters? This is a prelude to arresting me."

Mr. Eyadema, who mounted Africa's first successful post-independence military coup in

1963, won Wednesday's disputed presidential elections with up to 98 per cent of the vote in some places, but the boycott kept turnout low.

A government statement said security forces had arrested 40 people on Thursday for attacking electoral officials and destroying voting equipment the day before in Agbandi.

They were taken to Blitta prison where 15 died during the night after eating food brought by CAR members, it said.

"During the evening, CAR activists asked for by the detainees brought them food. This food was probably poisoned," the statement said.

The statement gave no indication of why the opposition might want to poison its own members.

It said the militants were armed with grenades and were led by a man named Djigui Komi Kouli, nicknamed Charles Taylor after the Liberian rebel leader. Security forces searched their homes and found arms and ammunition.



PALESTINIAN PROTEST: Palestinian women and children Friday protest outside the Bristol Hotel in Beirut where Arab ministers were meeting to discuss coordination in the Middle East peace process (see page 1). The protesters were demanding the reinstatement of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) welfare payments to Palestinian refugee families in Lebanon (AFP photo)

Sheikh, others enter not guilty pleas in bombing and blast plot

Combined agency dispatches

NEW YORK — Egyptian Muslim cleric pleaded innocent Thursday to charges he led a gang that bombed the World Trade Centre and plotted to assassinate President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and carry out other violence.

Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman's followers abroad threatened retaliation against Americans should he be harmed.

Fourteen co-defendants entered the same plea during a hearing at federal court in Manhattan on Thursday, six months after the Feb. 26 World Trade Centre bombing.

Streets outside were lined with police and a police helicopter buzzed over the courthouse, in an indication of the fear that other members of the cell remain free.

"Whether or not we've identified the major players, obviously there's a concern that there may be others out there that we don't know about," said Matthew Fishbein, chief assistant U.S. attorney.

The man, Enad Salem, is expected to be a key witness for the government.

But he will face tough cross-examination from defence lawyers, who will likely point to his shadowy past and claims that he has had ties to Egyptian intelligence, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the Soviet KGB.

At the time the plot was disclosed, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) made much of the fact that some of the defendants were mixing a bomb to blow up the United Nations.

But the government's own charges admit that Mr. Salem was the one responsible for preparing the explosives.

In addition, prosecutors will be hard-pressed to explain why Mr. Salem started giving them in-

formation in late 1991 yet they failed to stop the trade centre bombing last February in which six people died and over 1,000 were injured.

Michael Warren, attorney for Mr. Nosair, said Mr. Salem was "despicable" and said he "was not a credible witness."

The government has disclosed that in addition to taping his conversations with the defendants, Mr. Salem recorded his talks with FBI agents.

Former government officials say those tapes could prove to be an embarrassment and support defence allegations that Mr. Salem was trying to entrap the accused and was actually the instigator in the plans.

The government has leaked some of the conversations between Mr. Salem and some of the defendants showing the informant taking an active role in the plots.

"That evidence when shown and when displayed is going to show that this is a government conspiracy from beginning to end," Attorney Kuby said after the court hearing.

"It was the government that sent in its informant, to go out and to create this mythical Islamic conspiracy that we see here today," he said.

The indictment charges the group with planning to blow up the two tunnels and one bridge that span the Hudson River and bomb unidentified military installations.

But the defence lawyers contend the plans were just "loose talk" and that there is no evidence that they took concrete steps to carry out plots.

The charges against Sheikh Abdul Rahman and Mr. Nosair had been expected for months amid reports that U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno was reluctant to name the two, fearing the allegations could not be proved.

IAF decision is pragmatic

(Continued from page 1)

influential political forces in the country," the former minister said. But the Israelis learned their lesson from this experience and have since become more patient and pragmatic.

But despite the obvious benefits to the front's image in the long run, analysts are unanimous in saying that the front's decision to take part in the elections will allow the democratic process to continue and will bring equally important, though more short-term, benefits to the regime.

"Their decision to participate has averted a political crisis," said a well-informed

analyst. "Things had been in a bit of turmoil, but now it appears that things are back in order."

A close observer of the Israelis credited the IAF for its ability to take its opposition to the new law "as far as it could," falling just short of creating a political vacuum by boycotting the elections.

They were able to close all the doors which would have brought them more criticism," another analyst pointed out, saying that the whole process of wrangling over the law between the regime and the IAF "created a mature and dynamic political debate."

Arabs begin coordination talks

(Continued from page 1)

They were due to agree formally on Saturday to attend the 11th round of negotiations which began in Washington next Tuesday.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Bouez chaired the meeting attended by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa, Talal Al Hassan, the Jordanian minister of state for foreign affairs, PLO Political Department chief Farouk Kaddoumi, and Amr Musa, foreign minister of Egypt.

Officials from the various delegations at the meeting said it would be dominated by questions over the political and economic crisis of the PLO, and the acceptance by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat of the conciliatory Gaza and Jericho first option for the first stage of Palestinian autonomy without consulting other Arab sides in the peace talks.

Mr. Musa said on arriving that it was essential "to preserve Arab and inter-Palestinian solidarity."

"The Israeli retreat from Gaza and Jericho first is not the only

option," he said, adding: "We hope that the Palestinians' problem will not have a negative effect on the peace process."

The necessity of Arab and Palestinian unity was emphasised Thursday by Dr. Erakat, deputy chief of the Palestinian delegation to the U.S.-sponsored peace talks, who said it was "essential" as a "safety-net" against Israeli attempts to divide the Arab delegations to the talks.

"The Israelis are trying to chop up the peace process by treating different matters with each delegation," without making any decisions on major principles such as "land for peace," Dr. Erakat said.

Mr. Kaddoumi played down the extent of the PLO crisis Friday. "There are differing points of view but, once the decision is taken, everybody sticks to it," he said.

Mr. Sharaa would not comment on the PLO crisis, "Syria does not criticise the attitude of any side. The latest developments have to make us strengthen our coordination," he said.

Khaddam resolves Lebanese crisis

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam made an urgent trip to Lebanon Friday and then announced that a government crisis had been averted and Prime Minister Rafik Hariri would remain in office.

"The (Lebanese) government is staying. It's a united bloc," Mr. Khaddam told reporters at the end of his five-hour visit.

Syria is the undisputed power broker in neighbouring Lebanon, and Mr. Khaddam is Syria's top expert on Lebanese affairs.

Lebanese government officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Mr. Khaddam's intervention headed off the possible collapse of Mr. Hariri's half-Christian, half-Muslim cabinet.

Mr. Khaddam acted swiftly to settle the differences. He met with Mr. Hariri after holding separate talks with Lebanese President Elias Hrawi, a Syrian-backed Maronite Catholic, and Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, a Shiite Muslim.

Mr. Khaddam met later with both Mr. Hariri and Mr. Hrawi, emerging afterwards to announce that the undisclosed problems had been settled.

Mr. Hariri, a Sunni Muslim and go-getting self-made billionaire, was hailed as Lebanon's saviour when appointed in October with the support of Syria, the dominant political force in the country, and Saudi Arabia, the Arab World's main financial power.

He shunted aside Lebanon's old guard leaders, who had dominated politics for decades, and brought in Western-educated technocrats to oversee Lebanon's reconstruction and reunification following the end of the 1975-90 civil war.

Mr. Hariri, 50, has been complaining that he is not getting the support he expects from some of his cabinet ministers and that his reconstruction efforts are being blocked.

He refused to comment on media reports he threatened to resign at a cabinet session Thursday night.

The independent Al Nahar daily said Mr. Hariri told the meeting that he prefers to stand down rather than fail in his mandate to lift Lebanon from the wreckage of the civil war.

The prestigious daily quoted unnamed Hariri aides as saying that his main condition for staying on was "a satisfactory degree of harmony in the government to ensure that we will triumph together rather than fail one after another at Lebanon's expense."

Mr. Berri, a key ally of Syria, told reporters that Mr. Hariri had not tendered his resignation, but complained of "shakiness among government members."

Mr. Hariri has made major advances in curbing official corruption and improved security conditions during his 10 months in office.

Jordan: Israel must let more Palestinians home

By Rama Sabbagh
Reuters

AMMAN — Jordan, which resumes peace talks with Israel next week, said on Thursday that the Jewish state should let more Palestinians return to the occupied territories to live with their families there.

Interior Minister Salameh Hammad said an Israeli decision to let 6,000 Palestinians swap visitor permits for permits allowing them to live in the occupied territories with their families was a step in the right direction.

But he told Reuters that Israel should go much further.

"Israel's decision to swap their permits is only a correction of a wrong decision because it is their right to live in their homeland and not be treated like foreigners," he said.

It is also assumed this move should be followed by other steps to return all those who have the right to return to their homeland, including those Palestinians who lost their right to return because of tough Israeli restrictions," he added.

Israel Radio said on Sunday that Palestinians who were either born outside the territories or were abroad when Israel invaded in 1967 but arrived between 1990 and 1992 on the temporary visitor permits could stay with their husbands, wives or parents.

The radio said state prosecutors gave the number involved in reply to a petition before Israel's high court of justice demanding family reunifications.

Mr. Hammad repeated Jordan's demand for Israel to repatriate more Palestinians and their families barred from returning to the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Jordanian Interior Ministry figures show that since mid-1983, more than 44,000 Palestinians from the occupied territories have been unable to return after losing residence rights for failing to return within a period of three years.

The figure excludes wives and children registered on each residence — taking the total to over 90,000 individuals.

Jordan has so far unsuccessfully campaigned for their return as a goodwill gesture to support the peace process.

Most of the affected Palestinians were stranded in Jordan or have gone to other Arab states and the West.

Amman allows residents of the territories, most of whom have family in Jordan, to stay for up to a year and will usually renew permits if their Israeli travel documents are valid.

It has turned a blind eye to those unable to return, but is warning other Palestinians not to exceed their legal stay.

They appoint each other to investigate each other instead of appointing independent people or groups. Accountants or bankers should be looking into the financial issues not Executive Committee members," said Mr. Aruri.

Mr. Aruri questioned unpublished reports that the PPP would rejoin the negotiating team to Washington after a two-round absence.

Accord on Gaza-Jericho, but difference on goals

(Continued from page 1)

Jericho that will be the end of that and no further withdrawal will ever take place," said Ahmad Al Jamal, the Jordan representative of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP).

"If our provisional agreement is realised, then the Gaza Strip and Jericho will be the first pillars (for the state of) Palestine," said Mr. Rafat, pointing out that the implementation of the accord was not yet certain.

Faisal Hussein, overall leader of the Palestinian peace negotiators, was pessimistic about a Palestinian-Israeli breakthrough during next week's talks in Washington which constitute the 11th round since the negotiations began in 1991.

"I don't know if the Israelis have anything to give in the next round that gives us reason for optimism," Mr. Hussein was quoted as saying to East Jerusalem's Al Quds newspaper.

He said that the Gaza-Jericho plan implied Palestinian sovereignty in Gaza and Jericho after a full Israeli withdrawal.

those questioning and suspicion among the Palestinian leadership to "give Israel another chance" to prove it wants peace.

"This happens before every round of the talks. Mr. Arafat comes up with some great solution or proposal which is about to unfold — if only the Palestinians go to the talks," said a European observer of the peace talks. "He (Arafat), thus lures those suspicious of the usefulness of the talks back to the table," added the observer. "It's a tactic."

Asked about the expected outcome most observers were pessimistic that a fundamental change will take place.

"At the end of the day there will be some call for accountability, but they will then form a committee and ask them to look into matters," Tayseer Aruri, a veteran Palestinian commentator, advisor to the negotiating team for the PPP and a 1988 expellee from the occupied territories, said Friday.

They appoint each other to investigate each other instead of appointing independent people or groups. Accountants or bankers should be looking into the financial issues not Executive Committee members," said Mr. Aruri.

Mr. Aruri questioned unpublished reports that the PPP would rejoin the negotiating team to Washington after a two-round absence.

COLUMN

British tourist forgets his wife at the border

INNSBRUCK, Austria (AFP) — A British tourist drove through Austria Tuesday before noticing that he had left his wife behind at the Brenner Pass on the Italian-Austrian border. Austrian customs officials said. One of the border officials said "motorists quite often forget a member of their family when they're towing a caravan," but added that he'd never heard of such absent-mindedness in couple driving a Sedan car. After crossing the border between Italy and Austria, the British tourist stopped to use the toilet facilities while his wife was asleep on the tilted passenger seat. Thinking she was still there the man drove off, not realising that in his absence she too had got out of the car to use the toilet. She told customs officials of the route her husband was taking so the officials warned their colleagues at the Vils border post between Austria and Germany, 150 kilometres (90 miles) further on, who told the absent-minded tourist that his wife was waiting for him at the Brenner Pass. The man immediately turned back to fetch her.

Mother Teresa arrives home

CALCUTTA (R) — Mother Teresa arrived back at her Calcutta headquarters Friday after a week in hospital with a bout of Malaria complicated by a heart condition. The Nobel Prize winner, who celebrated her 83rd birthday in a New Delhi hospital Thursday, was discharged Friday morning and flown back to Calcutta aboard a special plane.

Single punch gets Fillipina 10-year jail term

CEBU, Philippines (R) — A woman who killed a man with a single punch has been jailed for 10 years, a Philippine court official said Friday. Judge Leonardo Canares Thursday sentenced Jessica Arenasa to 10 years in prison for killing a co-worker in Cebu province in February last year. Ms. Arenasa punched Verdonio Redillos in the mouth after he teased her about her dress as he stood drinking with friends. He fell and hit his head on a rock, dying minutes later, court records showed. The judge found Ms. Arenasa guilty of homicide.

Gag order in 'home alone' case; mothers not charged

LONDON (AP) — Two women who reportedly left their seven children home alone while they took a vacation were cooperating with investigators but their children remained in foster care. The Surrey County Social Services Department said that the two women, who share a home in Dorking, 20 miles (30 kms) south of London, left last weekend without their children. The children were taken into care after a neighbour notified social workers. However, Zoe Davidson, 16-year-old neighbour, said that she and her sister were caring for the children, aged 10 months to 14 years. Miss Davidson contended that authorities had been contacted by neighbours who believed that the mothers were lesbians. One of the women has four children: two boys aged 12 and 8, and two girls, one 7 years and 10 months old respectively. The other woman has a 14-year-old girl and two boys aged 11 and 4. Both women were interviewed by police but were not arrested. The Surrey County Council obtained a court order Thursday to prevent the publication of any details which would identify the children or the people now caring for them. Who have taken them into foster care. The order also barred reporters from attempting to interview the children, the foster parents or staff and pupils and teachers at schools attended by the children.

Thai queen undergoes surgery

BANGKOK (AFP) — Queen Sirikit of Thailand is recovering from minor surgery to remove a small accumulation of calcium deposits between the layers of skin under her right breast, newspaper reports said. The queen underwent the surgery Tuesday at Bangkok's Chulalongkorn Hospital and then was advised by doctors to remain in the hospital for 24 hours to rest, the reports said, quoting the Bureau of the Royal Household. Doctors found the deposits when checking X-rays of the queen and decided to remove them surgically, the reports said. The operation was performed by a team of specialists.